FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 21 *31 January 1978*

ARGENTINA

LA NACION Views Problems of GATT Talks [29 Jan]	B	1	1/A7
Armed Forces Secretaries To Visit Chile Thursday	B	2	1/A8
Retired Guerrilla Fighter Under Arrest	B	2	1/A8
Figures on 1977 Fuel Production Given [LA OPINION 25 Jan]	B	2	1/A8
All Energy Sources Except Coal Show Increase	B	3	1/A9
Briefs: Embassy in Singapore Closes; Bonds Issued in Europe; Releases, Detentions, Expulsions; New Tanks	B	3	1/A9

BOLIVIA

Catavi, Siglo Veinte Miners Declare Emergency	C	1	1/A10
PDC Dissidents Form Social Christian Party	C	1	1/A10
Parties Criticize Government for Lack of Dialog	C	2	1/A11
Possible Military Presidential Candidates Named	C	2	1/A11
Political Parties Must Register in February	C	3	1/A12
Labor Minister Vows To Keep Promise to Unions	C	3	1/A12
Mining Cooperatives Oppose Labor Coordinators	C	3	1/A12
Interior, Labor Ministers Comment on Political Situation	C	4	1/A13
Falange Leader Valverde Returns From Exile	C	4	1/A13
Juan Lechin Oquendo To Return From Exile	C	4	1/A13
Jimenez Gallo Stresses Commitment to Democracy	C	5	1/A14
PRESENCIA Calls for Complete Democratic Freedoms [PRESENCIA 24 Jan]	C	5	1/A14
Briefs: Guatemalan Ambassador	C	6	1/B1

BRAZIL

CNBB Head Views Church's Position on Elections [JORNAL DO BRASIL 27 Jan]	D	1	1/B2
Briefs: Bank of Brazil's Profit	D	1	1/B2

CHILE

Merino Sees No Hope for Solution of Conflict	E	1	1/B3
Pinochet Calls for Calm on Beagle Channel Issue	E	1	1/B3
Argentine Position on Beagle Channel Condemned	E	1	1/B3
Cauas Avoids Comment on Resignation Rumors	E	2	1/B4
Belgian Party Figures Seek PDC Members' Release	E	2	1/B4

COLOMBIA

Attorney General Rejects U.S. Corruption Charges	F	1	1/B5
Nicaraguan Ambassador Rejects CIA Ties With Unrest	F	1	1/B5
Kidnaped German Industrialist Released After Ransom Payment	F	2	1/B6
Guerrillas Kill Five After Industrialist's Release	F	2	1/B6

ECUADOR

Ecuador Registers First Trade Deficit Since 1972 [EL COMERCIO 22 Jan] G 1 1/B7
New Center-Left Political Party Founded G 1 1/B7

PARAGUAY

Stroessner Plans Private Trip to Brazil [HOY 27 Jan] H 1 1/B8
Exiles Speak Before Geneva Solidarity Meeting H 1 1/B8

PERU

Joint Communique Issued by Three Leftist Parties [EL COMERCIO 22 Jan] J 1 1/B9
New 'Rightist' Party Registers for Elections J 2 1/B10
Daily Says PSR Pressuring Agrarian Confederation [EL COMERCIO 22 Jan] J 2 1/B10
Visiting Senegalese Minister Discusses Resources J 3 1/B11
Briefs: Voter Registration J 3 1/B11

URUGUAY

Geisel Discusses Mendez Talks With Newsmen K 1 1/B12
[O GLOBO 27 Jan]
New Army Commander Bids Farewell to Unit K 2 1/B13

VENEZUELA

President's San Cristobal Speech Stresses Progress [EL UNIVERSAL 22 Jan] L 1 1/B14
Christian Democratic Leaders Attend UMDC Meeting L 2 1/C1
Authorities Capture Guerrillas in Monagas State L 2 1/C1

MEXICO

Gonzalez Revilla Arrives, Says No Change Without Plebiscite M 1 1/C2
Malmierca Denies Statement on Aid to Panama [Havana] M 2 1/C3
Lopez-Portillo on Oil Production, U.S.-L.A. Relations M 2 1/C3
[BORBA 20 Jan]

PANAMA

Paper Hopes for Speedy Senate Action on Treaty N 1 1/C4
[LA ESTRELLA 30 Jan]
Assembly Official on U.S. Ratification of Treaties N 1 1/C4
[CRITICA 30 Jan]
Law Professor Discusses Torrijos-Carter 14 Oct Agreement N 2 1/C5
Torrijos To Avoid Assembly Electioneering N 4 1/C7
Christian Democratic Party Leaders Attack Government N 5 1/C8
Bethancourt Accuses Politicians of Working Toward Coup d'Etat N 7 1/C10
[CRITICA 24 Jan]
Veraguas Broad Front To Defend Revolutionary Process N 7 1/C10
FRENACOP Calls for Electoral Reforms N 8 1/C11
Political Party Members Attend Special Mass for Exiles N 8 1/C11
Radio Commentary Denounces Opposition Appeal, Exiles N 9 1/C12
Political Exiles Return from Sweden N 10 1/C13
[CRITICA 30 Jan]

'Political Circles' Organized To Inform Workers N 10 1/C13
Supreme Court Decides Against Piedra Picada Firm N 10 1/C13
Briefs: Increased Revenue N 10 1/C13

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Station Appeals to U.S. on Removal of Somoza Regime P 1 1/C14
Briefs: Coffee Sales P 1 1/C14

GUATEMALA

EGP Releases Former Foreign Minister Herrera Ibarguen P 1 1/C14
Briefs: New Mexican Ambassador; New Maltese Ambassador; Financial Agreement With FRG P 2 1/D1

NICARAGUA

Defense Ministry To Investigate Shrimp Boat Attack P 2 1/D1
Further Reportage on General Strike Over Chamorro Death P 2 1/D1
Somoza Remarks on Strike Reported P 2 1/D1
Somoza Speech at Military Club P 3 1/D2
Somoza Speech in Corinto P 3 1/D2
ACAN Report on Speech P 4 1/D3
Somoza: Monday 'Decisive' for Strike P 5 1/D4
Hospital Doctors Join Strike P 6 1/D5
Military Patrols Prevent Demonstrations P 7 1/D6
Clashes With Demonstrators, U.S. Newsmen P 7 1/D6
Bishops Ask for 'True' Solutions P 7 1/D6
Private Sector: Strike To Continue P 8 1/D7
Four Radio Newscasts Prohibited P 9 1/D8
Radio Station Notes Restrictions P 10 1/D9
Situation 'More Critical' P 10 1/D9
Demonstration Dispersed, 60 Arrested P 11 1/D10
Teargas Grenades Dropped on Campus P 11 1/D10
President Meets With Reporters P 12 1/D11
Paper Warns of Opposition Violence [NOVEDADES 21 Jan] P 13 1/D12
National Guard Refuses Hospitality to Honduran Plane P 14 1/D13

CUBA

Radio Notes CIA Director's Interview With U.S. Magazine Q 1 1/D14
Castilla Welcomes Soviet Delegation to CEMA Meeting Q 1 1/D14
Opens Meeting, Outlines Objectives Q 1 1/D14
More on Castilla Speech Q 2 1/E1
Nicaraguan Priest: Cuba at Vanguard of L.A. Revolution Q 3 1/E2
Pineiro Receives Puerto Rican CP Leader Irrizary Q 3 1/E2
Report on Castro's School Dedication Speech Q 3 1/E2
Castro, Others Honor Jose Marti on Birth Anniversary Q 6 1/E5
Week of Tribute Ends for FAR Vanguard Commanders Q 6 1/E5
Garcia Chairs Railroad Workers Day Main Event Q 6 1/E5

CARIBBEAN

JAMAICA

Cuban Foreign Minister Arrives on Official Visit [Havana] S 1 1/E6
Manley Holds Talks With Nigerian Chief of Staff S 1 1/E6
[DAILY GLEANER 26 Jan]
Security Forces Kill Four Gunmen in Hanover, St. James S 1 1/E6
[DAILY GLEANER 27 Jan]

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LA NACION VIEWS PROBLEMS OF GATT TALKS

PY301604Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 29 Jan 78 p 8 PY

[Editorial: "GATT Negotiations"]

[Text] As you know, the long discussions held in Geneva to formalize the recommendations for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT] still continue. The GATT meetings are of a multilateral nature and more than 100 countries participate. Their objective is to maintain a free international trade system. Even though this goal was considered to be the objective shared by all at the beginning, reaching the appropriate agreement during this round of talks does not seem to be very easy.

There is an economic threat in the world. We can detect a tendency to return to protectionism, and, in general, there is a visible play of force to obtain unilateral advantages. The latter impairs even the most nearly universal point of view, and disregards the advantages provided in the GATT agreements designed to prevent the stagnation of a 1930's-type crisis.

The participants in the Geneva talks say they are in favor of continuing the system as a common goal, even though they are trifling with petitions and proposals which contradict their objective.

In addition, one situation should be taken into consideration. This problem was presented by the United States representative when he reminded the participating delegates that the authorization given by his country's Congress for the executive branch to conduct these negotiations expires this year. So if 1978 ends without an adequate consensus, the United States executive branch will have to request a renewal from the legislative chamber. For many reasons it is obvious that this renewal is not assured, at least not with a sufficiently wide margin. If the agreement is not formalized, the world economic situation will undoubtedly enter a stage of confusion and open fighting which does not promise peace or a steady future.

One very important factor, especially when discussing the interests of countries confronted in the North-South question, are the demands presented by the Group of 77, for which the Yugoslav delegate acted as spokesman. These developing countries state that they should be consulted. It is considered necessary that the United States, Japan, and the European Economic Community--with its nine members and three candidates--find solutions for world trade. This is the key to the survival of GATT.

Right now, the existence of serious differences cannot be denied. The possibility of arriving at agreeable terms is very small. However, confronted with the risk of destroying a structure which has regulated world trade for three decades, we should not despair. Confronted with the demands of developing nations, and the political order resulting from the stubborn deafness of industrialized nations, we should think about finally reaching the sought-for agreement.

In any case, any solution will not be guaranteed valid for quite some time because of the dynamics of our times in the economic field, and because of the implications of the energy crisis, which is capable of upsetting all our systems.

ARMED FORCES SECRETARIES TO VISIT CHILE THURSDAY

PY301658BY Buenos Aires TEIAM in Spanish 1620 GMT 30 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Jan--The secretary generals of the armed forces met this morning to discuss the subjects to be dealt with in Chile on Thursday when they meet with the military leaders of that country. Gen Reynaldo Bignone of the army command, Vice Adm Eduardo Fracassi of the navy, and Brig Gen Basilio Lami Dozo of the air force, along with their Chilean counterparts, will draw up a document which will later be signed by the presidents of both nations, Gen Jorge Rafael Videla and Gen Augusto Pinochet, according to official sources.

RETIRED GUERRILLA FIGHTER UNDER ARREST

PY[illegible] Paris AFP in Spanish 0522 GMT 28 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Jan--It was learned from military sources tonight that the Argentine Army has put Gen Adel Vilas (ret) under 30-day arrest for statements he made at the beginning of January. Among other things General Vilas--who was in charge of operation "independence," mounted to eradicate the rural guerrillas in Argentina's Tucuman Province--asserted that "if present economic policy is continued, conditions will become more favorable for a resumption of subversive action."

Vilas also stated that "the prospects for subversive action in 1978 will have a direct relation not only to the military operations to be carried out by the armed and security forces, but also, and essentially, to the responses of those who have the responsibility of leading the destiny of the nation.

FIGURES ON 1977 FUEL PRODUCTION GIVEN

PY281432Y Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 25 Jan 78 p 8 PY

[Text] Petroleum production during 1977 was 25,005,400 cubic meters, compared to 23,147,500 cubic meters during 1976--an 8-percent increase.

Last December, production was 2,113,400 cubic meters, compared to 2,100,400 for the same month in 1976. The difference of 13,000 cubic meters represents an increase of 0.6 percent.

Petroleum imports during 1977 were 3.3 percent less than in 1976.

The volume imported last year was 3,403,700 cubic meters and in 1976 3,524,100 cubic meters.

The expenditure of foreign currency for petroleum imports was $61,400 less--0.02 percent--as a result of the $297,731,300 paid in 1977 compared to $297,670,400 paid in 1976. [figures as published]

With regard to natural gas, total production was 8,608,600,000 cubic meters. The total volume was higher than 1976--8,229,100,000--by 379.5 million cubic meters, that is 4.6 percent.

Last December, production was 724.4 million cubic meters, compared to 701.1 million in 1976, an increase of 3.3 percent.

Coal production decreased 13.2 percent in 1977. Production in 1977 was 533,300 tons, but in 1976 it was 614,500 tons. The difference is a decrease of 81,200 tons. Last December, commercial production was 27,500 tons compared to 40,400 tons in December, 1976. Production was 12,900 tons less, which represents a decrease of 31.9 percent.

Electrical energy production during 1977 was 7.6 percent higher than 1976. Production was 27,328,042 mw hour compared to 25,400,357 in 1976.

With regard to electrical production last December, it was 2,419,834 mw hour, the highest figure of the year, an increase of 9.4 percent compared to December, 1976, production, which was 2,212,690 mw hour. Electrical energy during 1977 showed the following structure: thermic, 73 percent; hydroelectric, 21 percent; and nuclear, 5.0 percent. In 1976, the figures were: thermic, 70.2 percent; hydroelectric, 19.6 percent; and nuclear, 10.2 percent.

ALL ENERGY SOURCES EXCEPT COAL SHOW INCREASE

IY260033Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 Jan 78 FY

[Text] The Energy Secretariat reported yesterday that oil production rose 8 percent in 1977, electricity 7.6 percent and natural gas production 4.6 percent. Coal production decreased by 13.2 percent. During 1977 oil imports decreased 3.3 percent in comparison with 1976.

BRIEFS

EMBASSY IN SINGAPORE CLOSES--An executive branch decree published today in the gazette establishes that the Argentine Embassy in Singapore will be closed as of 31 January 1978, and that the Argentine ambassador to Thailand will have concurrent duties to Singapore. Moreover, it is established that the Argentine consulate in Singapore will have responsibility for the entire country. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1935 GMT 30 Jan 78 FY]

BONDS ISSUED IN EUROPE--The Economy Ministry has announced that yesterday in Frankfurt, Germany, Argentina launched a second bond issue on the European financial market, valued at dm 100 million. The maturity date for the bonds has been set for 1 March, 1985, and their annual interest rate will reach a maximum of 6.75 percent. Banks taking part in the operation are: Deutsche Bank, Manufacturers Hanover Ltd., Merrill Lynch International and Company, Societe Generale, Westdeutsche Landesbank, and Yamaiche International (Europe) Ltd. The series will be issued in bonds worth DM 50,000, DM 10,000, DM 5,000, and DM 1,000. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1006 GMT 24 Jan, 78 FY]

RELEASES, DETENTIONS, EXPULSIONS--Buenos Aires--From 20 to 27 January the executive branch ordered the release of seven detained people. In the same period, 21 persons were put at the disposal of the executive branch and two foreigners were expelled from Argentina. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0755 GMT 28 Jan 78 FY]

NEW TANKS--The military construction administration will deliver to the army the first reinforced Sherman tanks next Tuesday. All structures of these tanks have been reinforced. They have modern devices for driving, firing and traction and their firepower has been increased. [Text] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Jan 78 FY]

CATAVI, SIGLO VEINTE MINERS DECLARE EMERGENCY

PY310138Y La Paz Radio La Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 30 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The Catavi and Siglo Veinte miners have declared a state of emergency until the government decides to recognize the leaders of the miners' federation and until the government begins to rehire the miners who were fired for political-labor causes. This information was released by representatives of the unions of these two districts who were elected recently and who arrived in La Paz to talk with government officials.

During a press conference, they explained that the workers of these two tin mines unanimously decided to support the members of the miners federation who were elected at the Corocoro congress and the members of the Bolivian Labor Central [COB]. They energetically repudiated the continued presence of the labor coordinators whom they termed as employees of the Labor Ministry and who at no time were acknowledged by the grassroots committees.

(Galarza) and (Victor Sardi) and (Julio Portillo) and [name indistinct], representatives from Siglo Veinte and Catavi respectively, indicated that the miners are open to dialog. We hope that the government will keep its promise of rehiring the workers and leaders who have been fired for political-labor causes, they added. They also indicated that approximately 150 workers have been fired from Catavi and Siglo Veinte during the last few years.

Meanwhile, the COB accused the legal advisers of the Labor Ministry of having acted in all ill-intentioned way in the drafting of the decree which will lift the recess on labor activities, thus running the risk that the government and the country as a whole will lose prestige.

Through a communique, signed by (Rene Lleras del Barco)--its press secretary, the COB challenged the Labor Ministry's advisers to a public debate in order for them to prove that the decrees which they have drafted have been done so correctly in accordance with the constitution and thus the armed forces will have the full guarantee that the technical expertise which they have sought for the ministers currently in power has been competent and honest.

On the other hand, the communique indicates that the workers are surprised that while President Banzer speaks about dialog and makes appeals for peace, the repressive organizations concentrated at the Labor Ministry raid labor headquarters or threaten the leaders in order to force them out. It also indicates that the coordinators themselves are threatened in order to force them to carry out repressive actions against their fellow workers. The COB document indicates that the public is a witness to the fact that the workers have tried to seek solutions to all their problems through dialog, but the government's answer has only been violence in all its forms. The COB communique announces that it will call a national congress within the next few days in order to analyze the current situation of the labor movement and the attitude to be adopted.

PDC DISSIDENTS FROM SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY

PY301838Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1457 GMT 30 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 30 Jan--The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has lost a large number of its members, who left to form the Christian Social Party [Partido Social Cristiano--PCS], it was reported here today.

Adolfo Palma, spokesman for the new party, criticized top PDC leader Benjamin Miguel, "who neglected the democratic spirit of the party by handpicking its leaders" in order to form political alliances with other groups outside the party's mainstream.

PARTIES CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT FOR LACK OF DIALOG

PY281251Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0428 GMT 28 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 27 Jan--It was reported here that a former president and leaders of six Bolivian political parties have criticized the military government for its lack of dialog with political organizations. Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, former Bolivian president, and the leaders of the Bolivian Nationalist Movement, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR), the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), the Authentic Revolutionary Party (PRA), the Socialist Party (PS), the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) and the National Action Movement (MAN) criticized the government officials.

Their joint political communique indicates that since the government does not offer a direct dialog with political parties, but only a dialog with the people in general, it is not helping true democratic dialog. It added that "the transition from dictatorship to democracy requires freedom and respect for human rights, and freedom means direct dialog."

The document emphasized that the government's attitude "is a real threat, with the desire to frighten the population and democratic organizations and restrict the free flow of ideas and disagreements. The document also indicated that "means of social communications is restricted in order to concentrate information and control news distortion in accordance with government plans." The document ends by stating that government officials must guarantee to enforce the law, without privileges to persons of institutions.

POSSIBLE MILITARY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES NAMED

PY301750Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1504 GMT 30 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 30 Jan--A confrontation between two military candidates for the nation's presidency during the 9 July elections was discussed by a leader of the Social-Democratic Political Movement. The politician, who asked that his name not be revealed, said that "only a military candidate could defeat Gen Juan Pereda, the official candidate, in the elections."

"The names of Col Jose Patino, Generals Juan Perez Tapia and Rene Bernal Escalante could be presented as candidates for the presidency with a good possibility of success, given their civilian and military prestige," he added. Patino and Bernal were cabinet ministers in President Hugo Banzer's government. He said: "A civilian candidate could not win the elections at this stage. This is why those who oppose postponement of the elections should look for a prestigious military candidate to allow for the election of a government with more democratic guarantees than the one offered by General Pereda."

Many sectors opposing President Banzer are hoping for the candidacy of former President Hernan Siles Zuazo in the 9 July elections.

POLITICAL PARTIES MUST REGISTER IN FEBRUARY

FY310125Y La Paz Radio La Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 30 Jan 78 FY

[Excerpt] All political parties are required to register in the electoral lists of the national court due to the lack of lists and electoral records from previous elections. This information was released today by the National Electoral Court when it confirmed the type of registration to be carried out by the political parties. Registration will begin on 5 February and close on 28 February.

In accordance with these instructions, all political parties must submit a copy of their statutes, type of organization, a membership list and a list with the names of their current leadership. Afterward they will submit their platforms and an outline of their ideologies in accordance with the regulations which affect political trends, especially those related to coalitions or fronts which wish to take part in the 9 July elections.

LABOR MINISTER VOWS TO KEEP PROMISE TO UNIONS

FY280149Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Jan 78 FY

[Text] When discussing the attitude of the leaders who have taken over the Bolivian Mineworkers Federation [FSTMB], Labor Minister Mario Vargas Salinas stated that the government will fulfill to the letter the agreement signed on 18 January between the Interior Ministry and the hunger strikers, and that all union leaders fired for political or union activities who return to their jobs will be acknowledged as such.

He stressed that the union leaders must return to their jobs to regain their status as leaders in line with the agreement signed on 18 January, which states: The reinstatement of all fired mineworkers will be studied by a commission made up of representatives of grassroots committees democratically chosen by the workers.

MINING COOPERATIVES OPPOSE LABOR COORDINATORS

FY281206Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Jan 78 FY

[Text] The National Federation of Mining Cooperatives [Federacion Nacional de Cooperativas Mineras de Bolivia--FNCMB] strongly objects to labor coordinators continuing to hold their jobs. The federation indicated that this would be contrary to a recent government decree and the general labor law.

Executives of this federation indicated that the union freedom reinstated by the government has automatically put an end to the activities of the so-called labor coordinators who have, anyway, been more at the service of the Labor Ministry than of the workers.

The strong FNCMB also expressed support for the leaders of the Bolivian Mineworkers Federation [FSTMB] who had come out of hiding to take over the leadership of their organization. The leaders of the FNCMB, which has over 25,000 members, asked the labor minister to open a frank dialog between government and workers, thus preventing the development of intolerance.

INTERIOR, LABOR MINISTERS COMMENT ON POLITICAL SITUATION

PY281742Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 28 Jan 78 PY

[Text] After yesterday's cabinet meeting several ministers made statements to the press. The interior minister, for example, said that the letter which President Banzer had addressed to the people to pacify the nation and establish bases to guarantee the democratization process is clear proof of the desire harbored by the government to learn the opinions of all political currents and all civic groups.

When asked about the internal situation of the country, he said that Bolivia is experiencing an atmosphere of normality, with some difficulties which are characteristic of the political process.

Labor Minister Mario Vargas Salinas said yesterday that the government has now fulfilled all the conditions of the agreement signed on 18 January by the Interior Ministry and representatives for those who were on hunger strike. The labor union leaders who were dismissed for political reasons and labor trouble and are rehired, will be recognized.

FALANGE LEADER VALVERDE RETURNS FROM EXILE

PY301756Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1540 GMT 30 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 30 Jan--Soon after returning from his political exile in Lima, former minister Carlos Valverde said that every corner of the country "should have a soldier to defend it, a teacher to educate its youth and a priest to baptize its children."

Valverde is a leader of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB], and was one of the first politicians to return to the country after the political amnesty recently granted by che government. The political leader was met at the local airport by thousands of followers. Santa Cruz is located some 1,000 kilometers east of La Paz.

Valverde criticized the invasion of churches by the political police in an action taken against a group of hunger strikers, which included one of his sons. He concluded by saying that "the majority of our people are Catholics and the churches should be respected by everyone."

JUAN LECHIN OQUENDO TO RETURN FROM EXILE

PY282332Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The resurgence of Bolivia's union movement seems to involve events such as the announced return to the country of the veteran leader Juan Lechin Oquendo, who is scheduled to come back during the first week of February.

The former vice president of the nation and the former top leader of Bolivia's union movement, who for the last few years [words indistinct] his leadership over the masses, will return to Bolivia after more than 6 years in exile. Lechin Oquendo, who had presided over the People's Assembly [Asamblea del Pueblo] as secretary general of the Bolivian Labor Central [COB], left Bolivia in August, 1971, after the overthrow of Gen Juan Jose Torres' leftist regime.

The influential union leader, who is also the head of the National Leftist Revolutionary Party [PRIN], has remained in exile in Venezuela ever since. Sources have indicated that Juan Lechin Oquendo is returning to the country to take over the leadership of the COB and carry out a policy of dialog with the government.

[Name indistinct], public relations secretary of the COB, which encompasses all labor sectors of the country, stated recently that the COB will work within the framework of open dialog and will avoid the violence which has so harmed Bolivian workers in the past.

Repeating, Lechin Oquendo, who was also appointed executive secretary of the Bolivian Mineworkers Federation [FSTMB] during the congress of Corocoro held in (?1966), will be back in the country during the first week of February.

JIMENEZ GALLO STRESSES COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY

PY280145Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] At the end of today's cabinet meeting, several ministers spoke to the press. The interior minister stated that the open letter to the people, in which President Banzer specifically emphasized the guarantees for the democratization process, is a clear demonstration that the government wants to know the opinion of all political trends and all sectors of the country.

Asked about the domestic situation, Minister Jimenez Gallo indicated that there is an atmosphere of tranquillity, although there may be some difficulties inherent to the political process underway in the country.

"There have been some problems with the unions," said the minister, "however, we believe that we will reach an arrangement which will contribute to the normal development of the process of institutionalization."

Minister Jimenez Gallo also discussed some of the reactions of political parties to President Banzer's letter to the people. He said that the letter clearly shows the government's desire to carry on with the process of democratization. "However, since we have seen that there are now 37 different political groups or parties, and that it is difficult to assess who their true representatives are, General Banzer has been forced to address the people in general," concluded Jimenez Gallo.

PRESENCIA CALLS FOR COMPLETE DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS

PY281320Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Jan 78 p 3 PY

[Editorial: "Freedom of Expression and the Opposition"]

[Text] Democracy--the least imperfect of the political regimes so far invented--undoubtedly has its own dangers. These are related to freedom, to the rights involving democracy. One of these basic rights is freedom of expression, which must be granted to all, including those who if they were in power and put into practice the doctrines they advocate, would first eliminate this freedom. If freedom is granted only to those who agree with the regime, the regime is not much different from a dictatorship. [French philosopher Jacques] Maritain said that a Christian political regime even works for the well being of anti-Christians. [paragraph continues]

We can say in a similar manner that a democratic regime even recognizes the equal rights of the enemies of democracy.

In view of the political opening and the proximity of elections, there inevitably will be a wide national debate between the government and the opposition. The government will try to prove that its administration was positive, except for secondary aspects which can be attributed to human imperfections. The opposition, however--because it is the opposition--will try to prove that the government has committed errors and abuses which exceed tolerable limits, and that this is why people should vote against it. This clash of ideas will have to take place. What is hoped is that it is carried out with reason and proof, far from insults and nasty phrases, but with the proper serenity--if not for the opposition, at least for the people, who deserve respect.

But currently, the means of social communications mostly maintain an established doctrine. No matter how broad this is, there are limits beyond which they cannot go. Therefore, if solutions are not found, some groups or parties may not have the opportunity to have their voice heard, to propose their options to the voters. We do not believe there are people who would refuse to release information, whatever the ideology of their groups. But these groups naturally want much more: They want publicity, to convince and not only report on their principles and practical programs.

If we respect democratic freedom of expression, it seems to us that in order to overcome the difficulties mentioned and in view of the experience gained in other countries under similar conditions, two solutions among many can be suggested.

The first solution is related to the official means of communications, which must be opened equally to all groups or political parties, with no other condition than that they keep their participation within the law and morality. These means of communications are directly supported by the taxes paid by all the people, that is, by those who belong to all the parties. Therefore it seems to us that it cannot be allowed that--except for paid publicity--some groups may use it while others are not allowed to.

The second solution is the publicity which all parties or groups can carry out at their own expense. They will have to contract radio programs, print leaflets, particularly if they cannot get to any other written means, etc. What has been happening is that those means, particularly leaflets, were almost automatically considered illegal by the political police organization. They were automatically labeled underground, subversive or something similar. These words should be given their strict legal meaning in accordance with the legal regime established by the current government. If we disregard their strict legal meaning and accept the simple idea of using repression, then any statement by the opposition would have to be considered illegal, that is, inadmissible. Acting within the law, respecting freedom of expression of the opposition within wide legal limits, is the way for the people to learn what every party is proposing and the way to conscientiously choose among the options being offered. In other words, it is a necessary means for the elections to be authentically democratic.

BRIEFS

GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR--La Paz, 27 Jan--Jose Arturo Ponciano Samayoa, new Guatemalan ambassador to Bolivia, presented credentials to President Hugo Banzer this morning during a ceremony which reopened the Guatemalan Embassy after many years. Previously, the Guatemalan ambassador to Bolivia had his headquarters in Lima, Peru. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0148 GMT 28 Jan 78 PY]

CNBB HEAD VIEWS CHURCH'S POSITION ON ELECTIONS

PY281156Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 27 Jan 78 p 3 PY

[Text] Dom Ivo Lorscheider, secretary general of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops [CNBB], criticized yesterday the indirect election of the president. He also pointed out that the church will not try to talk with Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo, "as it will also not try to contact Senators Petronio Portella and Magalhaes Pinto."

Bishop Lorscheider admitted that he would talk with the official presidential candidate "in any other place but his office," but that if he tries to contact the CNBB he will be received like the others, and will be given the same booklet-"Christian Demands for Political Order," the statement issued in Itaici--which was given to Magalhaes Pinto, and from which some 50 government programs can be drawn."

After explaining that he will not try to contact General Figueiredo "so as to show that the church does not want to interfere with the government's political or security authority," he said that the church had experience in this field: "The time of the Catholic Electoral League [LEC] has passed." He said that through that movement, the church had participated in politics, to a point of even vetoing candidates, "as in the case of former President Cafe Filho, who later became a charming president in the eyes of the church. We no longer want to assume that kind of responsibility. Our position today is to criticize errors in the process, following guidelines such as those included in the Itaici document, signed by all bishops."

Still speaking on the church's position in the political process, he affirmed that the church will continue with its program of explaining to the people their duty to vote and elect candidates who do not correspond to their personal interests, but to the general desire of the community. This is how the church will proceed in the upcoming elections for senators and deputies. Bishop Lorscheider said that he would like to see the elections for presidents in Brazil held in the same way as in great democratic countries. Nevertheless, since this does not happen, it is the church's duty to encourage the people to accept the current system, "because, patience being one of the church's main supports, it expects that massive participation of the people in politics will occur sooner or later: If not today, tomorrow."

Regarding church-government relations, he affirmed that the CNBB "has always had easy access to administrative organizations. Dialog has always existed, we have always talked. If measures were not taken it was because they did not want or could not do so." This kind of relationship, however, is considered "more difficult and at times even impossible in areas such as Para, Pernambuco and other states."

What the church expects from the future president, "whoever he may be, is that he fulfill what is included in the little book"--he again displayed the booklet "Christian Demands for Political Order"--"which shows the church's position." The fact that the CNBB has not yet been contacted by General Figueiredo is due only to one thing: "He is different because he is the official candidate."

BRIEFS

BANK OF BRAZIL'S PROFIT--Brasilia--Carlos Rischbieter, president of the Bank of Brazil, announced yesterday that the bank's 1977 gross profit totaled 23.47 billion cruzeiros, representing a 32.5 percent increase over 1976. [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Jan 78 PY]

MERINO SEES NO HOPE FOR SOLUTION OF CONFLICT

PY301205Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 30 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Adm Jose Toribio Merino, commander in chief of the Navy and member of the government junta, considers Argentina's ignoring of the agreements signed with Chile to be extremely serious. He added, however: Chileans should feel confident that the conflict will be handled with level-headedness. Admiral Merino made this statement in southern Chile where he is vacationing. The member of the government junta said he had no hope that any future improvement on Argentina's part could resolve the problem. [expreso su desesperanza de que con un mejor criterio por parte de Argentina el problema creado con Chile se pueda resolver en el futuro.] He concluded that the most serious issue is that confidence has been lost in the principle that countries should simply live in peace and respect treaties.

PINOCHET CALLS FOR CALM ON BEAGLE CHANNEL ISSUE

PA292053Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0030 GMT 29 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 28 Jan--Chilean President Augusto Pinochet today issued a call for calm and moderation on the part of his compatriots in the face of the international problems being faced by his country, an indirect allusion to the Beagle Channel conflict with Argentina. Pinochet said Chileans should not act excitedly, as occurs at times when the unreasonable seeks to become reasonable, but rather with the calmness of spirit which comes from justice and the law. Pinochet Ugarte made these statements during a rally in the municipal stadium of the city of Hualane, 170 km south of this capital, where he closed the summer civic action activities which were carried out by the National Unity Youth Front. The chief of state said that Chileans can remain calm, knowing that the government is doing its duty. He added that his compatriots, particularly young people, can be calm because their government is maintaining, as far as internal policy is concerned, a perfect path and is aware of the goals that must be reached in order to achieve a new democracy and institutionality.

In a reference to the Beagle Channel problem, youth leader Ignacio Astete Alvarez, general coordinator of the youth front, called on the youth to remain firmly resolved never to cede what belongs to us. He added that the Chilean government defends national sovereignty with the seriousness of one who knows that he is right and that he is protected by law and justice.

The youth rally was also attended by Interior Minister Gen Cesar Raul Benavides and high-ranking government officials.

ARGENTINE POSITION ON BEAGLE CHANNEL CONDEMNED

PA292054Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1245 GMT 29 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 29 Jan (EFE)--Labor, professional, youth and civic organizations all joined in the last few hours to approve resolutions condemning what they describe as Argentina's unilateral action in voiding the arbitral findings on the Beagle Channel.

The resolutions also express support for the Chilean Foreign Ministry in its defense of the sovereignty and legitimate rights of the country and ask the government to take a firm and calm attitude in defense of the country's territorial integrity within the framework of international law and justice.

President Pinochet said yesterday that the Chileans should act calmly and with moderation and not as occurs at times when the unreasonable seeks to become reasonable, and with the calmness of spirit which comes from justice and the law. He added that his government is complying with its duty in defense of the national sovereignty.

The Confederation of Copper Workers stated that Argentina's absurd rejection [of the arbitral findings] challenges the nationalist feeling of Chilean workers and their sacred commitment to defend the national sovereignty.

The National Federation of Leather and Shoe Workers accused the Argentine Government of creating a difficult situation by disregarding Chile's sovereign rights to the Picton, Lennox and Nueva Islands and other areas in the southern part of the Beagle Channel. It added that Chile is once again demonstrating its unvarying policy of respect for international law in the face of an unusual and unprecedented action, such as that taken by Argentin

The Christian Democrats, in a communique which was released earlier, also expressed support for the arbitral findings of Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain and a group of judges of the International Court of Justice. They affirmed that in this situation Chileans should remain united in defense of their rights and their territory.

Several professional organizations have also expressed support for the Foreign Ministry statement, reiterating that Chile should maintain a firm position in defense of its territorial integrity within the framework of international law and justice.

CAUAS AVOIDS COMMENT ON RESIGNATION RUMORS

PY271814Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] Jorge Cauas, Chilean ambassador to the United States, has declined to comment on his alleged resignation. It is rumored in Santiago that Cauas will resign and take another government position in Santiago on 1 April.

BELGIAN PARTY FIGURES SEEK PDC MEMBERS' RELEASE

PY270139Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0111 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 26 Jan--Two high-ranking Christian Democratic leaders from Belgium today asked the Chilean Government to release the 12 political and union leaders who have recently been confined to an area in the northern part of Chile. The presidents of the Belgian Christian Democratic parties, Wilfrield Martens and Charles Nothomb, who are visiting Chile for this purpose, met with the deputy interior minister, Col Enrique Montero. During the meeting, the Belgian leaders expressed to the military government's official their concern for the confinement of the Chilean Christian Democratic leaders who have been accused of violating the political recess which has been in force in Chile since 1973.

ATTORNEY GENERAL REJECTS U.S. CORRUPTION CHARGES

PA291909Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2222 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 28 Jan (LATIN)--The nation's attorney general, Jaime Serrano Rueda, today rejected statements by U.S. congressmen that the campaign against drug traffic is partially frustrated because of the corruption of some Latin American functionaries.

"I have not seen the report, but according to press dispatches it contains ideas on corruption which I do not share," he said. He added in statements to reporters that it is very difficult to make statements in that respect.

He said that a careful analysis of the action of the Colombian legal authorities to prevent and repress this type of crime will show that things are not as the report claims. He added that one of the main obstacles in the campaign against drug gangs has been the lack of means and resources. "Lately, we have progressed some, and we will continue the campaign."

Serrano made his statements as he revealed a recent operation in La Guajira Department on the Caribbean coast, where special agents captured 10 well-known drug traffickers and confiscated several trucks and a plane. During the action, two helicopters assigned to the operation were machinegunned and a pilot was wounded, according to press reports.

A press release datelined Washington and published here today said that according to a report prepared by several congressmen who recently visited Latin America, "the chain of corruption (in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia) extends to the highest levels of government which are required for any illegal business to prosper."

The attorney general of the nation--the top administrative authority--reiterated that in the case of Colombia, he does not share those ideas. The Colombian Government last year received aid from the United States to fight the illegal drug traffic. That aid included especially equipped helicopters, two of which were apparently involved in yesterday's incident at La Guajira.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR REJECTS CIA TIES WITH UNREST

PA310243Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Report by Angel Romero Bertel]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government today expelled several international extremist elements [words indistinct] the agitation reported in that country and voiced its confidence that it will overcome its current difficulties. Nicarguan Ambassador to Colombia William Barquero Montiel today told this station that the reports circulating in the past few hours to the effect that President Anastasio Somoza's regime is about to collapse are groundless.

According to the latest reports received at the embassy, President Somoza's administration is overcoming its recent difficulties, Ambassador Barquero Montiel said. The diplomat agreed to talk to this station about the assassination of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and about the most recent difficulties confronted by President Somoza's government. [Barquero--begin recording]

The assassins were Nicaraguan but the mastermind may be a Cuban, or at least this is what (Silva), the first person arrested, has said. [words indistinct] he said that he had been given a lot of money, even dollars. Their leader or, rather, the individual who actually carried out the assassination, bought a house worth about 500,000 cordobas, or some 2.5 million Colombian pesos. In terms of Nicaraguan urban or residential areas this is a large amount, particularly if one considers that this criminal did not have a profession and had been jobless for 6 months. Then overnight he came onto the scene with that large amount in dollars.

[Question] Is it true that President Somoza's administration is staggering?

[Answer] A government cannot be staggering when, as I have said, it is backed by a majority party such as the Liberal Party. I repeat, the party's national and (legal) junta recently met and granted the president a vote of support and confidence. Therefore, the government cannot be staggering. On the contrary, it is doing fine. [end recording] Ambassador William Barquero Montiel also rejected the rumors about the CIA's alleged involvement in the assassination of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and in Nicaragua's current situation of unrest.

KIDNAPED GERMAN INDUSTRIALIST RELEASED AFTER RANSOM PAYMENT

PA301548Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2221 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 28 Jan (EFE)--German industrialist Peter Montuar, kidnaped last year by a guerrilla group near the city of Uraba, was released today after the payment of a large ransom, the exact amount of which has not been revealed. Military sources indicated that the businessman is well, but did not reveal the location of his release. Montuar was kidnaped on 30 October, 1977 by a group of 30 members of the fifth front of the self-named Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Ten days later, the commando demanded a 10-million peso ransom (approximately $350,000).

GUERRILLAS KILL FIVE AFTER INDUSTRIALIST'S RELEASE

PA301549Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0319 GMT 29 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 28 Jan (EFE)--Five persons were executed here tonight by a guerrilla commando in the Uraba region, in the northwestern sector of the country, shortly after the release of kidnaped German Peter Montuar.

Radio Cadena Nacional report indicated that the mutiple murder took place near the town of Chogorodo (Antioquia Province). The radio added that the five slain persons were members of a self-defense force, and attributed the crime to a FARC patrol. The murder is apparently related to the operation underway by army troops in Uraba to locate the kidnapers of the German industrialist.

ECUADOR REGISTERS FIRST TRADE DEFICIT SINCE 1972

PA280321Y Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Jan 78 pp 1, 3 PA

[Article by Marcelo Eguez]

[Excerpts] Ecuador's trade balance registered a deficit of $89.2 million (2.23 billion sucres) in 1977. The figure, released by the Central Bank, reflects the difference between the export and import permits extended by that institution.

Oil exports represented 41 percent of the total sales; cocoa products 15 percent; coffee 13 percent, and bananas 12 percent. Industrial products improved their sales considerably with an increase of 88 percent over the previous year.

The export and import permits extended by the Central Bank revealed a 1977 trade deficit of $89.2 million; exports represented 1.179 billion, while imports amounted to $1.2682 billion. The deficit is the first registered since 1972, the year that marked the beginning of oil exports.

Oil sales which up to a couple of years ago represented over half the revenue obtained by exports, in 1977 constituted 41 percent of exports, with sales of $489.3 million. Crude sales last year decreased by 13 percent as compared to 1976; that is, a $75.8 million drop in income.

In general, exports increased, except oil which, as already stated, registered a 13 percent drop as compared to 1976.

It should be underlined that industrial products showed a substantial improvement, rising from 10 percent last year--and less in previous years--to 24 percent in 1977, an increase that reflects the industrial development underway in the country.

Of the total $1.268 billion in imports, 81 percent were products and articles on list I and the remaining 19 percent on list II. Of the total imports, $1.039 billion (65 percent) of goods were purchases made by individual buyers; $143.5 million (12 percent) by the central government, and $43.6 million (3 percent) by other public sector entities.

NEW CENTER-LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTY FOUNDED

PA271600Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0431 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 26 Jan (EFE)--A new center-leftist political party emerged into public life today, less than 6 months before Ecuador's scheduled presidential elections. The new party is the "Popular Democracy," which resulted from the merger between the Christian Democrats and a progressive wing of the Conservative Party, whose top leaders, Oswaldo Hurtado and Julio Cesar Trujillo respectively, have been in jail since 15 January. The two were sentenced to 15 days in jail for propaganda activities during the recent constitutional referendum held here.

The announcement of the founding of Popular Democracy was made by Hurtado and Trujillo in a radio interview from jail. They indicated that the bylaws and the ideological and pragmatic bases of the new political organization have already been established. Both the Christian Democrats and the progressive sector of the Conservative Party were part of a coalition established a little over 1 month ago. Other members of the coalition were the Progressive Social Front, the National Democratic Union and a group of independents.

STROESSNER PLANS PRIVATE TRIP TO BRAZIL

PY271658Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 27 Jan 78 p 1 PY

[Text] President Alfredo Stroessner will visit Brazil during the next few days with a small entourage.

This was reported yesterday by sources close to "Lopez Palace" [Government House]. According to the sources, the Paraguayan president will remain in Brazil several days to practice his favorite sport, fishing. It was also reported that a meeting with his colleague, Gen Ernesto Geisel, is possible.

If this trip does take place [as published], it will be a repetition of the visit made last year by President Stroessner, when he met with his Brazilian counterpart and fished along the Atlantic coast.

EXILES SPEAK BEFORE GENEVA SOLIDARITY MEETING

PY281326Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0034 GMT 28 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Geneva, 27 Jan--During a press conference organized here by the Geneva Socialist Party, Paraguayans in exile denounced the situation in their country.

The exiles, particularly Father Norberto Bellini, condemned Gen Alfredo Stroessner's "fascist tyranny" for "having done nothing in 23 years to help people out of their misery" and denounced the support given by the United States to that regime.

They stated that "the airports, bridges and roads were only built to make it easier for the military forces to come in and out of areas to put down any popular uprising in Paraguay or in the southern part of Latin America."

They stated that Paraguay is "a geopolitical prisoner" of the United States and a "strategic base" for the repression of Latin American popular movements and that a popular movement of resistance among workers and peasants is developing in Paraguay.

They added that General Stroessner, "apart from his military and political position, is nothing more than the chief of a band of smugglers, arms and drug traffickers, protector of prostitution and false money."

The press conference was held before the opening of the annual meeting of the Center of Information and Solidarity with Paraguay, which was organized by several leftist Swiss institutions. The meeting will last through Sunday.

Besides Father Bellini, other Paraguayan speakers included Professor Jeremias Penayo, Father Edilberto Jara and Professor Lidio Dominguez.

They particularly denounce the "bloody repression which at this time is even affecting the church."

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THREE LEFTIST PARTIES

PA271200Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Jan 78 p 4 PA

[Joint communique of the Peruvian Movement for Socialism, the Socialist Popular Action and the Peruvian Communist Party, issued in Lima on 21 January, 1978]

[Text] The undersigned political organizations address the people in general and the workers and popular organizations to express the following:

1. We fully support and firmly aline outselves with the united platform of struggle of the union organizations and federations in the face of the crisis and the reactionary campaign, as well as with the measures and steps adopted for its implementation.

2. The joint communique published in the magazine MARKA, in which our organizations appear as signatories, is a draft document that was presented during a meeting as one alternative. Such a document should have been the object of a study and a final decision by the organizations present at the meeting. The final document should have included the convocation to a national strike which is not the one included in the document published by the magazine MARKA. Therefore, the text that appears in the aforementioned magazine was not nor could it have been authorized for publication until the final decision had been made.

3. We recognize the unity and political maturity shown by the workers' organizations, particularly the General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP) and the National Confederation of Workers (CNT), which have placed their struggle in the framework of the legitimate interests of the nation and the workers, without abandoning any of their banners and in the face of the imperialist aggression which has been skillfully creating international conflicts and is domestically expressed in the plans of the reactionary and antidemocratic sectors.

4. We reject the statements of certain official sectors which, in open contradiction to support for negotiations and dialog, provoke the working class, thus helping the coupist interests of the right. We alert the workers and the people in the face of this provocation and its strange coincidence with the attitude of certain infantile leaders so that they will not fall into the trap that is being set.

5. We urge the organizations of the workers and the people to maintain their unity as the only real guarantee that will permit us to stop the imperialist and reactionary aggression and as an instrument of struggle for the achievement of the just demands of the workers. We also demand that the government be consistent with the legitimate interests of the fatherland which can be no other but those of the workers and the people, who constitute the national majorities.

We reaffirm our decision of establishing as soon as possible a great popular front of the socialist and progressive forces of Peru.

[Signed] Francisco Garcia, Peruvian Movement for Socialism, Mario Villaran, Socialist Popular Action, Guillermo Herrera, electoral registration number 2512166, Peruvian Communist Party.

Lima, 21 January, 1978.

NEW 'RIGHTIST' PARTY REGISTERS FOR ELECTIONS

PA282347Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 28 Jan (AFP)--A new political party, the Peruvian Democratic Movement [MDP], (rightist), was the fourth party to request registration at the National Electoral Jury in order to participate in the constituent assembly elections to be held on 4 June. On the other hand, the National Agrarian Confederation, [CNA], which claims to represent 5 million peasants, suspended its efforts along this line, protesting that the jury refused to register it and that illiterates were not allowed to vote.

Seven days away from the closing of the electoral register, the MDP, founded by former President Manuel Prado, requested its registration yesterday with 43,349 signatures. MDP chairman, former deputy Javier Ortiz de Zevallos, said that within a few days they will present new signatures to reach a total of 50,000, which is 10,000 more than the required number.

Meanwhile, the National Agrarian Confederation announced last night that it will not register with the jury because of the "unjust and illegal decision" rendered against it. The top electoral authority decreed that the confederation could not register because it was a labor organization. It could, however, register under another name. "The peasants shall never use disguises nor deceit of any kind, the peasant central replied, rejecting the opportunity offered by the National Electoral Jury. It explained, however, that it will "continue to strive for the people's union in order to build a Peruvian socialist society," and that "it will persist in its struggle for the oppressed in the rural and urban areas." The CNA also said that this challenge means that the people and progressive forces must unite and rise above ideological differences to halt the "advance and attacks" of reactionaries and imperialism.

DAILY SAYS PSR PRESSURING AGRARIAN CONFEDERATION

PA271935Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Jan 78 p 2 PA

[Editorial: "Why is the PSR Defending the CNA?"]

[Text] According to a recent decision of the National Elections Jury [Jurado Nacional de Elecciones--JNE], the National Agrarian Confederation (CNA) cannot register for participation in the constituent assembly. As the JNE resolutions are definitive and based on legal principles, it is the legal field where the CNA should direct its action, without the involvement of sympathies and differences. To take its case into the field of politics would be to act without legal arguments and elements in order to pressure an important government entity on decisions which are exclusively within its jurisdiction.

In connection with the CNA's electoral aspirations, there are some questions which cause us concern. The fact that the Socialist Revolutionary Party (PSR) should come to the defense of the CNA in its petition to the JNE is logical and in line with recent political activities. But nobody ignores the fact that among the leaders of both organizations there are close bonds on the basis of ideological commitments and common objectives. There is nothing here that should surprise us. But what is scandalous is the behind the scenes activities of this premature alliance. One can see that the PSR, in a desperate race against time and seeking the signatures it needs to register, has been using the CNA's organization and facilities. It has also been revealed how the PSR is pressuring the CNA leadership and how, in turn, the CNA pressures the peasant representatives of the board of directors of EL COMERCIO. [paragraph continues]

The natural consequence of both these actions is an accumulation of evidence showing the proselytizing work for the PSR by some of these representatives. An example is a well-planned campaign to collect signatures for this party.

When this newspaper's director asked the peasant representatives to desist in their aggressive attitudes in questions related to the progress of the revolutionary process, the surprising answer he received from one of the representatives, the president of the board of directors, was that pressure was being put on them.

This pressure is obviously from the CNA at the service of the PSR. It cannot be concealed that PSR activists have turned to the CNA rank and file with orders to pressure the peasant mass to sign electoral lists.

This open and scandalous infiltration by a political party of an organization established with objectives different from those which characterize party activity is very serious. The dignity, rights and interests of millions of peasants are being trampled upon. The CNA leadership, rather than the PSR, should give an immediate explanation to the country and its members of its political and moral conduct.

The objective of the permanent and systematic relationship between the PSR and CNA is to form an alliance and obtain broad participation in the constituent assembly.

These statements, however, do not mean that EL COMERCIO is identified with any party as its pages are open to the opinions, criticism and disagreements of the different political and social forces and tendencies.

VISITING SENEGALESE MINISTER DISCUSSES RESOURCES

PY241428Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Maj Gen Juan Sanchez Gonzalez held a very cordial meeting yesterday with his Senegalese colleague, Industrial Development and Environment Minister Louis Alexandrenne, who is from eastern Senegal.

During their meeting the ministers agreed that there is a need to form a front with all the countries which export raw materials in order to obtain just prices for our minerals.

They also spoke about the possibility of exchanging knowledge and experience in mining matters through the visit of Peruvian experts to Senegal and vice versa.

The Senegalese minister is in our country at the invitation of the Energy and Mines Ministry.

BRIEFS

VOTER REGISTRATION--According to the secretary general of the National Electoral Court, there are approximately 5 million voters in the country. This figure is based on current registration. Thirty-eight percent of the voters live in Lima, followed by, according to December, 1976, estimates [as heard], the departments of La Libertad, Arequipa, Junin, Piura and Ancash, which in turn are followed by the provinces of El Callao, Lambayeque, Cusco and others. [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY]

GEISEL DISCUSSES MENDEZ TALKS WITH NEWSMEN

PY302302Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Jan 78 p 6 PY

[Press interview granted by President Ernesto Geisel in Montevideo on 26 January]

[Excerpts] [Question] An Uruguayan journalist wanted to know if in their talks President Geisel and President Mendez dealt with President Carter's policy, particularly in reference to human rights and if the two countries have the same viewpoint about it.

Geisel: We did not deal with that subject in particular, but of course Brazil and Uruguay have the same feeling regarding respect for human rights and both countries make sure that those rights are indeed respected. But, as I have said recently to the press in Mexico, our idea--mine at least and possibly that of the Uruguayan Government also--is much broader than that normally implied by our newspapers. I believe that human rights, even as considered by the UN Charter, embrace several basic and essential rights of the individual, such as the rights to education, food, health and especially to employment; in general the right to have a fair, reasonable and equitable standard of living in the context of the world situation. Of course, there also exists the right to freedom and to political rights, a series of rights which demand that an individual reconcile his rights with his responsibilities in the community. But we did not specifically broach the subject of President Carter's policy.

[Question] An Uruguayan journalist asked about charges that Brazil carries out an expansionist policy which begins with the "occupation of other countries' border lands" by Brazilians.

Geisel: Brazil does not practice any expansionist policy. We have borders with 10 countries, all the way from French Guyana to Uruguay. We live in peace and tranquillity with all those countries and we carry out a policy of understanding and mutual development with all of them. Of course, as has been happening for the past century, there are Brazilians who own land in Uruguay just as they do in Parguay and Bolivia, but that does not mean that they are the spearhead of an expansionist policy, because those Brazilian landowners are subject to the laws of those countries. I do not believe that Brazil has any reason to endorse an expansionist policy or to continue that of centuries ago when Spain and Portugal confronted one another over the occupation of more land. Brazil is a huge country with 8.5 million square kilometers of land. We are trying to conquer Brazil's hinterland, and this is the conquest into which we are putting our efforts.

[Question] An Uruguayan journalist asked about the possibility for a political opening in Brazil and the possibility [as published] of holding the coming elections.

Geisel: During my government there have already been two elections in Brazil and there will be a new election this year. This coming election will be for State Assemblies, the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, state governors and the nation's president. I believe that this indicates a form of political development. We of course think of furthering the political opening, but it has to be done with the necessary care to avoid a return to the past. That past was deplorable and Brazil cannot go back to it. Therefore, further political opening, which will represent another step in the direction of an improved democracy, has to be done with due caution so that we will not bring back to life the specter of the past, which was terrible and which hindered the development and the normal affairs of our country.

[Question] Another Uruguayan journalist wanted to know if there is a special reason why the country's presidency should be held by an army officer, not by a civilian.

Geisel: We are already departing from our subject which refers to Uruguay and Brazil.

[Question] But since we are brothers, we are interested in the matter.

Geisel: The distinction between civilians and militarymen is not quite appropriate here, because Brazilian officers come out from popular classes. All the officers of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are men who were born amid the people. I myself am an example of this and I believe that my colleagues in general can attest to this popular origin of the armed forces. We army officers do not constitute a caste within the country. We are persons closely connected with the people in the midst of whom we were born and with whom we associate. The nation's president could be a civilian just as well as a militaryman. But I believe that in the current circumstances an armyman in the presidency still represents an advantage. Excuse me if I do not dwell longer on my answer. I would have a lot to tell you, but I have run out of time.

NEW ARMY COMMANDER BIDS FAREWELL TO UNIT

PY3100347 Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] Gen Gregorio Alvarez has stated that the most important achievement to which we aspire for the Uruguayan nation is for each man to be the lord of his destiny. The future Army commander, who will assume his duties on Wednesday, said farewell today to his comrades and friends in Minas, headquarters of the 4th Army Division, which is under his command until tomorrow.

In making a review of his 4-year term in the area, General Alvarez noted two positive achievements: 1. the acceptance of military officers by Lavalleja citizens and their understanding that the only difference between civilians and the military is the uniform which the military wear in fulfillment of an obligation and for discipline; 2. the citizens have understood that they do not need the help of leaders, political parties or recommendations to work or succeed in any enterprise.

General Alvarez noted that each man is the lord of his own destiny and this is the achievement to which we aspire for all Uruguayan citizens.

PRESIDENT'S SAN CRISTOBAL SPEECH STRESSES PROGRESS

PA271638Y Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 22 Jan 78 pp 1-2 PA

[Excerpts] Fortunately, I am in a position to state emphatically that the demarcation of marine and submarine areas between Colombia and the Dominican Republic in no way affects the pending demarcation between Venezuela and Colombia in the Gulf and the Caribbean Sea, President Carlos Andres Perez told a press conference in San Cristobal.

In the first place, the demarcation between the Dominican Republic and Colombia is between two countries facing each other, not next to each other. In the second place, the agreement itself excludes any lines [lineas] that could be brought up in the discussion or solution of the controversy over marine and submarine areas with Venezuela. The agreement between the two countries makes this very clear.

That is why I assure you that there is nothing to worry about in this respect. Upon learning of this sovereign act by two friendly nations, I was interested in knowing more. So under that policy of frankness and directness that I have introduced into my government, I spoke on the telephone about the issue with President Lopez Michelsen.

THERE WILL BE NO WAGE INCREASES

My government is not considering any wage increases, as we did in 1974. Venezuelan labor sectors obtain their wage increases through the work contracts signed during the 4 years of my administration. The wage increases have been substantial--between 25 and 20 percent, by virtue of the law I submitted to Congress, which was approved.

INTERNATIONAL POLICY: A RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE

I believe that in foreign policy matters, there should be no polemics at the party level or between the government and the opposition, because foreign policy should be the heritage and responsibility of all Venezuelans. That is how I have focused my activity on the international arena. I am proud and satisfied to proclaim that I have used the experience of three prior administrations of Venezuelan democracy: those of Romulo Betancourt, Raul Leoni, and Rafael Caldera. It is on such sound foundations of a nation that has dignity and pride that we have developed this policy which today should also be cause for pride to Venezuelans of all parties and walks of life.

I believe the tender age of our democratic system causes us to debate these topics the way we do: twisting them up and changing the facts. I sincerely wish to engage in as little polemics as possible in this matter because I am aware of what it means to a mature, serious and responsible country to have a truly nationalist foreign policy. As for the aspects you mention, I feel fortunate to say that in regard to the talks held with Colombia, I have almost resolved the differences between the two countries. We have been able to progress even further than the gains made by President Caldera's administration. Besides, we are solving a truly difficult problem; namely, increasing the number of land markers along the Colombian-Venezuelan border. This had been impossible up to now. In my administration, this problem is being settled to the entire satisfaction of both countries. I will be able to state in my last message to the Congress of the republic that there will not be a single point left on the Colombian-Venezuelan border which has not been clearly and specifically defined. This has been a great achievement.

Concerning Brazil, there is no problem. However, there was one concerning Venezuela. One of my first decisions was to order the immediate removal from Venezuela's southern region of the huge saws which had been rented to cut or fell timber in one of the most important hydrological reserves of Venezuela. We turned Codesor into a great experience in the investigation of hydraulic and mineral resources. We banned, however, the exploitation of timber throughout the entire Bolivar State. And we have just banned timber felling throughout the federal Amazonas territory.

OPEC AND THE THIRD WORLD

I believe the Venezuelan position in OPEC was firmly defined in my speech at the 50th meeting. We believe that OPEC is worthwhile as long as it remains an instrument of the Third World to achieve a new international economic order. We can neither envision nor accept OPEC as a cartel or another monopoly to take advantage of market conditions to raise prices and impose terms. Oil--I have said often--is an instrument of the Third World in the struggle for a new international economic order of equilibrium and equity in trade relations between the developed and developing nations.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS ATTEND UMDC MEETING

PA302241Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1718 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 30 Jan (AFP)--A meeting of the World Christian Democratic Union's (UMDC) political committee began here today. It is being attended by distinguished members of international Christian Democracy. Participants include: Amintore Fanfani (president of the Italian Senate), Mariano Rumor (former Italian prime minister and president of [word indistinct]), Kai-Uwe von Hassel (president of the FRG Christian Democracy), Rene Schlotter (UMDC secretary general), Fernando Alvarez de Miranda (president of Spain's Chamber of Deputies), Jose Napoleon Duarte (former Salvadoran presidential candidate), Jaime Castillo (vice president of Chile's Christian Democracy) and youth leaders Marco Antonio Barahona and Gianfranco Adori.

Rafael Caldera, president of Venezuela from 1969 to 1974, and Luis Herrera Campins, presidential candidate of the Social Christian Party for this year's elections, are also attending the event.

AUTHORITIES CAPTURE GUERRILLAS IN MONAGAS STATE

PA271739Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The security forces have captured more guerrillas in the mountains of Monagas State. The prisoners were taken to Maturin for questioning. Military operations have been intensified against the guerrillas in this region. Guerrilla training centers have been dismantled and large quantity of arms have been seized. These are serious blows to this state's guerrilla organization, which soon will be completely controlled by the government.

GONZALEZ REVILLA ARRIVES, SAYS NO CHANGE WITHOUT PLEBISCITE

PA310419Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0400 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Jan (EFE)--"Panama will not accept any modification of the signed treaties unless a new plebiscite is called, just as was the case when the agreement for the turning over of the canal was signed." Panamanian Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla made this statement today on arriving in Mexico accompanied by Chief Negotiator Romulo Escobar and Education Minister Aristides Royo. According to the foreign minister, his government has been flexible and would even permit the addition of an interpretation of Articles No 4 and 6 of the treaty. Those articles, Revilla said, establish the canal's neutrality, the principle of nonintervention by the United States and the unhindered passage of U.S. warships through the canal. The minister added that the agreement has not yet been approved by the U.S. Senate and that the senatorial debates will begin in February.

The Panamanian delegates came to Mexico to inform President Jose Lopez-Portillo and his foreign minister, Santiago Roel, of the progress made in the negotiations with the United States.

MALMIERCA DENIES STATEMENT ON AID TO PANAMA

FL301746Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1457 GMT 30 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has declared in Mexico City that the United States and its allies are trying by all means to distort Cuba's internationalist aid to the peoples and legally established governments in Africa. Malmierca made the statement at a press conference moments before Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel and Foreign Secretariat officials bade farewell to the visitor who spent 3 days in that country on an official visit.

Questioned about his denial concerning a statement which the newspaper UNO MAS UNO attributed to him to the effect that Cuba allegedly would be willing to intervene in Panama if the people of that country were to request it, the Cuban foreign minister said: actually, we were surprised to hear the report and I have no idea where the newsman could have obtained that information.

During the press conference Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca emphasized that Cuba has never intervened in the domestic affairs of any country and when Cubans have participated in support for and solidarity with the struggle of peoples, it has been at the request of legally established governments.

The Cuban foreign minister reiterated that Cuban cooperation agreements with certain African peoples and governments are not negotiable. He then stated that Cuba has supported and will continue to support Angola, Mozambique and the Ethiopian revolution to repel and crush the interventions to which those peoples have been subjected.

Lastly, Malmierca said that he was grateful that the questions had been asked because it allowed him to clarify questions which were the cause of a report in the Mexican press and dispatches of certain international news agencies.

LOPEZ-PORTILLO ON OIL PRODUCTION, U.S.-L.A. RELATIONS

AU3108152Y Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 20 Jan 78 p 3 AU

[Apparent text of interview with Jose Lopez-Portillo, president of the United States of Mexico, granted to BORBA correspondent Slobodan Pavlovic, TANJUG correspondent Tone Hocevar and Belgrade television editor Djoko Stojicic at the Presidential residence in Mexico in January]

[Excerpt] [Question] It is only a matter of time before Mexico becomes one of the world's leading oil producers and exporters. How much does this affect the national economy and to what extent will it help you to correct the situation in other fields?

[Answer] Oil and other production sources on which our country counts insure for us, on a medium- and a long-term basis, solutions for the economic problems that we are now experiencing. Our current problems are short-term, and oil will undoubtedly be one of the sources that will help us move forward more quickly and develop the national economy. Even though this is of great help to us, we do not wish to make oil either the axle or the foundation of our development because we have succeeded in creating a diverse economy which has great possibilities for progress. It would be bad to depend on an unrenewable source when we have many other possibilities for development.

However, it is clear that a positive balance, an increased value of raw materials and of oil and an enrichment of our commodity trade provide us with new possibilities which enable us to look to the future with optimism. Simultaneously with the resolving of our economic problems we shall also more easily achieve social solutions within society.

Inflation is at this time the main problem that we are facing. We shall correct the present situation and advance on the road of social development as a result of a positive balance of payments to which oil and other natural resources can greatly contribute.

Relations Between Latin America and the United States

[Question] You have said on one occasion that in the past the United States did not follow a good and adequate policy toward Latin America, but that Latin America, too, did not know how to determine a common and most suitable policy toward the United States. What should be done in this respect and what--in your opinion--should be the role of the OAS?

[Answer] At the beginning when the OAS was set up, it was supposed that it would be a forum for resolving problems in relations between Latin America and the United States. Unfortunately, this has become distorted because of different interests in the relations and cooperation of the two groups of states and because the OAS at the moment is more of a declarative than a cooperative instrument. It is an extraordinary forum for staging nice speeches by our Latin American side and for verbal contests, but has very little substance or none at all.

We are of the opinion that one can make much more and quicker progress in bilateral relations, and that these could later be generalized and transformed into multilateral relations. In President Carter's policy one notices an endeavor to create an appropriate attitude of the United States toward Latin America. But I stress that our chief problem lies in that Latin America has no common and appropriate policy in relation to itself. Regardless of our similarities and historical links, we are fairly scattered countries, politically, socially and economically. There is no unity and no congruence of principles.

PAPER HOPES FOR SPEEDY SENATE ACTION ON TREATY

PA3102210Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA de Panama in Spanish 30 Jany 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "Obstructionist Tactics"]

[Text] We are fully convinced that the U.S. Senate will ratify the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Nevertheless, we do not fail to overlook the possibility, however remote, that the intransigent attitude adopted by some senators might result in successive postponements and delays for the sole purpose of preventing ratification, which they consider certain.

If those who oppose the treaties were convinced that the U.S. Senate would reject the treaties, surely they would be the first to seek an early vote, thereby imposing their opinions. Those senators who have announced that they will vote against the treaty know that they are outnumbered. They know that their viewpoints are shared by only a very small part of the Senate and that they would be defeated in an early vote. However, as some of those senators are professional politicians and because a vote against them would harm their political standing, they will probably use all means to delay the vote, such as resorting to the dilatory tactics occasionaly used in legislative chambers.

As we must bear in mind the possibility that time will go by without the Senate having reached a decision, it seems advisable that we should study the consequences that might arise from this possibility and the steps that we should adopt in such a case.

Undoubtedly, Panama's present crisis is based mainly on a widespread sense of uncertainty, not as to whether the treaties will be ratified but as to when.

We waited during many long years of hard work for the treaties to be signed. Now that we have reached that goal, we cannot keep on waiting endlessly for the agreements to become effective. The senators should understand this, not only the ones who favor the treaty but the others as well, because many things depend on the Senate's decision.

We are aware that some senators who have visited Panama warned about delays because there are congressional elections this year in the United States, because next year there will be political maneuvers concerning Carter's possible nomination for a second term and so on. This is an endless chain of events. Therefore, according to these senators, it would be almost impossible to find time for the Senate to decide on the treaties. That is why we believe that these dilatory tactics will be rejected and that the Senate will decide soon, before the Panamanians' impatience turns to desperation.

ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL ON U.S. RATIFICATION OF TREATIES

PA3022211Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Jan 78 p 20 PA

[Report by Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] I believe that those sectors in the U.S. Senate that do not want the Torrijos-Carter treaties to be ratified just as they were ratified by the Panamanian people in the 23 October plebiscite continue to exert pressures on General Torrijos. And this pressure is aimed at two principal objectives:

On the one hand, it seeks to undermine General Torrijos' political prestige. On the other, it seeks to sink the treaties in the U.S. Senate.

The above statements were made by Carlos Calzadilla Gonzalez, secretary general of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, in view of the concern shown by several sectors regarding what has been described as blackmail against Panama aimed at amending the treaties.

The veteran Panamanian politician stressed that it is precisely now that Panamanians should show more unity because this internal unity will enable our top leader to develop a tactic that is flexible yet based on principles and to arrive at the safe port of canal decolonization.

Regarding the U.S. Senate, Calzadilla emphasized that a group of Republican and Democratic senators seems to be preparing a political maneuver based on the wornout topic of the amendments, knowing full well that with those amendments the treaty would not make it.

LAW PROFESSOR DISCUSSES TORRIJOS-CARTER 14 OCT AGREEMENT

PA2619O1Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[News Director Mario Velasquez interview with Dr Julio Linares, attorney and university law professor--live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Julio Linares, I would like your opinion as an attorney and university law professor on the reported possibility that the Carter-Torrijos declaration dated 14 October 1977 might be incorporated in the treaties signed on 7 September and approved by the Panamanian people during the 23 October plebiscite?

[Answer] Certainly, Mario. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to state my views on such an important matter. There is something bothering me about the 14 October 1977 verbal agreement. If you will, this agreement covers three aspects that were basic during the negotiations and remain so after the treaties were signed. Those basic aspects are: first, how far do U.S. rights go to defend the Panama Canal; second, how far do U.S. rights go when the permanent neutrality treaty speaks about expeditious passage; and third, noninterference by the United States in Panama's affairs.

As can be easily seen, the first two aspects are of vital importance to the United States. The third point is vitally important to the Republic of Panama. I just told you that the declaration or joint agreement reached on 14 October worried me because it is very clear on the first two points--those that are of vital importance and interest to the United States. This is not the case, however, with the third point, which is the one that matters to us.

In fact, if we look at the third paragraph of the declaration, it says that the previous paragraphs do not mean and should not be interpreted as meaning that the United States has the right to intervene in Panama's domestic affairs. However, it does not say that they cannot be interpreted as U.S. intervention in Panama's foreign affairs and, by making a contrary interpretation, the United States would be authorized to intervene in Panama's foreign affairs. As you know, Mario, in view of their sovereignty all states have the power to function in two distinct spheres. One is the domestic area, that is on their own terrain, and the other is the international area.

This power to function on the domestic plane is what is normally known as a country's domestic affairs and that exercised on the foreign or international level is known as a country's foreign affairs.

Many multilateral and bilateral treaties repudiate intervention. When most of them speak about intervention they cover a country's domestic and foreign affairs. Therefore, I repeat, if this declaration or oral agreement merely mentions domestic affairs, it is logical to assume that the United States will be able to interpret it to mean that it has the right to intervene in foreign affairs and it is possible that Panama might, for instance, want to reach an international agreement with a country that does not belong to the U.S. sphere of influence and the United States will allege that, since it has the right to intervene in our foreign affairs, it will try to impede the agreement, the arrangement, the convention because it might harm the security of the canal. Now then, the paragraph might be interpreted differently because the word domestic is both genus [genero] and species [especie]. Most international treaties view domestic and foreign affairs as a species but they are also a genus; that is, we might understand as domestic affairs of a country not only those that refer to domestic sovereignty but also sovereignty over its foreign policy. It could be concluded that Panama's right, for instance, to reach a treaty with Russia, China, France or England is a matter related to our domestic affairs, to Panama's internal sovereignty. In any event, this point is not clear enough. It is ambiguous and can lead to differing interpretations. We have had sad experiences with the United States as far as interpretations are concerned. We know that in view of its political, military and economic power it can impose the interpretation that best suits its interests. If this joint agreement is signed or in some way incorporated into the treaty, I would recommend that it be clearly specified that it does not mean that the United States can intervene either in Panama's domestic or foreign affairs. Not to do this may lead to going beyond the scope of the treaty itself which does not grant the United States the right to intervene in our foreign affairs.

[Question] There is another issue connected with this matter. It is the statements by some government sources and some of the U.S. senators who have recently visited us to the effect that the incorporation of the Torrijos-Carter declaration of 14 October into the treaties would not require a new plebiscite because this joint declaration had been agreed on prior to the plebiscite date. The Panamanian people knew about it through the various communications media, which published it, as well as through General Torrijos, who said a few days before the plebiscite that he had agreed to this joint declaration and would be willing to sign it at any time because he felt that it was appropriate. What do you think about this?

[Answer] Well, Mario, the question of whether this verbal agreement was entered into or adopted before the plebiscite is legally immaterial. I think so because it was not among the documents that were submitted to the Panamanian people for approval or rejection. Furthermore, this joint declaration was not adequately publicized. If I am not mistaken, the only thing that was done in this connection was that during a news conference, which I think was held at Newsmen Association's Building, Negotiator Romulo Escobar Bethancourt explained this verbal agreement but did not release it to the press. In addition, as you have correctly said, this joint declaration was read here during a television program in which General Torrijos participated. However, it is one thing to read a document of this importance and something else to see it published, or to review it thoroughly.

Therefore, in the first place, it was insufficiently publicized. Even if it had been publicized sufficiently, this document was not included among the documents for approval by plebiscite. The only documents submitted to the plebiscite were those signed on 7 September 1977.

Now, if one disregards this fact and delves into the subject of whether this or another declaration is subject to approval by means of a new plebiscite, one would have to distinguish between amendments and interpretative documents. If the treaty is approved by the U.S. Senate with reservations and these reservations require an amendment to the canal treaty or the permanent neutrality treaty, it is undeniable that it will have to be submitted to a plebiscite in order for Panama to be able to accept it.

As for any document limited to the interpretation of the treaty, that is to say the clarification of the meaning of its clauses, such a document will not have to submitted to a plebiscite, regardless of whether or not it was submitted before or after the Panamanian people approved the treaty. Moreover, Panama and the United States could, at this juncture, sign a document clarifying any clause of the 1936 or 1955 treaties. This is so because, as one must bear in mind, there are three types of treaty interpretations: authentic interpretation, which is the interpretation stemming from the two states by means of a document, in which case it is binding upon the two states; unilateral interpretation, that is, an interpretation made by one state, which is only binding on the state making it; and, lastly, a judicial or arbitral interpretation, which is made by a court of justice or an arbitration court, which is binding upon the parties in conflict.

Now then, regarding the declaration we are discussing or, in other words, the agreement of 14 October 1977, I think that if, upon signing it, it is clearly established--as I have recommended here--that the United States is not entitled to intervene in Panama's domestic or foreign affairs, it would not have to be submitted to a new plebiscite because what it would do is to interpret the treaty. However, if this intervention in our foreign affairs is included, it would indeed have to be submitted to a new plebiscite because it would go beyond the text itself [el texto mismo] of the permanent neutrality treaty which, as I told you before, does not authorize the United States to intervene in our external affairs.

[Velasquez] Thank you, Dr Linares, for your statements to TV-2.

TORRIJOS TO AVOID ASSEMBLY ELECTIONEERING

PA2802347 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos today inaugurated a substation of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification in Pocri. In the presence of more than 1,500 persons who participated in the ceremony Torrijos talked about the political composition of the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives in the next election campaign.

Torrijos said that he will stay out of the elections because, in his words, that is your problem and because by not backing anyone I am backing the 505 who should be elected. The Chief of Government is fully aware that when our people cast their secret votes, they are doing so based on facts, not on emotions. It is a truth based on past and future accomplishments. Ten years of contact with you, 10 years of being the most available chief of state in the hearts of his people, give me the assurance that I cannot expect a betrayal from the people whom I have loved and served so much, said Torrijos.

After apologizing to the people of Aguadulce, Torrijos stressed that the connecting of the central provinces with the Integrated National Electrical System is an important step in the country's socioeconomic development. He said that in the past it was embarrassing to have to admit that if a house leaned against a light pole it caused a blackout.

Now, with a modern electric power system which unites four provinces, not even a truck crash will make it flicker.

The Panamanian people should not exploit the negative. Negativism is what delays the progress and development of nations. We have in fact accomplished a lot, said Torrijos, who was accompanied by Vice President Gerardo Gonzalez, engineer Edwin Fabrega and four central province governors.

Torrijos made reference to the reasons for the accomplishments and their expense. He also spoke of the consequences of his trip to Europe and the satisfaction he feels when he visits every corner of Panama. At one point he referred, without going into details, to the collective benefits which the Panamanian people will receive with the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Referring to the election campaign, Torrijos emphasized the importance of the popular power and repeated that he will stay out of this campaign, adding that the people will turn these elections into a real civic contest.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERS ATTACK GOVERNMENT

PA2013000Y Panama City Radio Mia in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Panel discussion featuring Julio Ortega with guests Edgardo Molino Mola, Guillermo Cochez Jr and Julio I. Rovi, members of Panama's Christian Democratic Party, and Luis Emilio Veces, secretary general of the party and a corregimiento representative--live]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] First of all, I wish to extend the most cordial welcome from Radio Mia, which is your house. As I told Guillermo the day before yesterday, Radio Mia's doors are always open. We do not go searching for anyone because we do not want to be accused of looking for something. But our doors are open to all who wish to say anything, so feel welcome. Good morning to you all and, Guillermo, go right ahead.

[Cochez] Thank you very much, Julio. Thank you for saying that Radio Mia is the house of all Panamanians, not only now but always. Ever since 1964 the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has broadcast to all Panamanians through Radio Mia's microphones its Social Christian ideas, its ideas on national redemption, [the Christian Democratic ideals] have been heard throughout the country through Radio Mia. To begin this program I would like to explain why Christian Democracy has come to Radio Mia today.

In the first place, the PDC feels political discussions at all levels should be encouraged. This is the duty of all Panamanians. In the second place, it is necessary to stimulate radio stations such as Radio Mia, which despite the imminent risk of a possible suspension or fine continue to offer their microphones so that ideas aimed at improving Panama can be aired. In the third place, along with the other political parties and all men interested in freedom, the PDC wants to stop the pattern by which only the voice of the government officials is heard in Panama and only the government officials can provide solutions to the national problems. There are other Panamanians who feel they, too, can contribute their ideas and solutions to our country's unprecedented national crisis.

What is the PDC aiming at with this program? We have been asked to give solutions to the national problems, solutions that we all know will be executed by others who have repeatedly proven themselves unable to even follow the solutions suggested in the past 9 years by many groups, and who prior to these last 9 years--when it has been said everything was bad--unsuccessfully tried to copy the good solutions that were being suggested at the time.

It is for this reason that the PDC wants to talk to the Panamanian people to discuss national problems. The solutions to the national crisis cannot be monopolized by anyone; [this is the responsibility] of all Panamanians. We hope to find the national consensus that is so necessary at this moment of crisis, but which has not been found under the present regime.

The PDC feels that everybody in Panama has sufficiently denounced the government. The one thing that there is consensus about in this country is that the current government and its rulers are a total failure and that for this reason they do not deserve even the last chance they have been requesting now that the treaty is to be ratified. Therefore, rather than denounce all the bad things that the government has done--which all of us already know about--the PDC seeks with this program to elucidate the Panamanian people on certain general ideas that it feels all Panamanians should meditate on and reflect about because the fatherland demands it. It is for this reason that we have requested the use of Radio Mia's microphones through our friend Julio Ortega. In this way, the PDC's voice will help in this important task which all good politicians and Panamanians of good faith have undertaken since the beginning of this experimental Indian summer, as our Secretary General Luis Emilio Veces recently called it in Mayin Correa's televison program. In this Indian summer experiment we are the guinea pigs and the doctors are just waiting to see how we react in order to determine if we are to continue with the experiment and how the country's situation can be improved. But we no longer want to be guinea pigs. We want to participate in the country's development. Along with all other Panamanians we want to suggest solutions because the fatherland belongs to all of us and national unity is essential at this time.

[Veces] Sometimes when I read the press or hear the radio commentaries I have the impression that in this country politicians and political parties are repudiated. I would like to put forth some ideas this morning [words indistincts] which have always been the position held by the PDC. Throughout its history the PDC has always rejected political corruption. But today many persons are attacking the political parties and the politicians from various positions. Nonetheless, for the past 9 years we have had a political system; we have had politicians and we have had politicial and administrative corruption. Yet nobody seems to realize that those attacking the political parties and the party system, those who do not want the political parties, are the ones presently ruling the country not with the support of the political parties but with the support of the National Guard. All those we see attacking the political parties from various positions are defending something: the privileges they are currently enjoying. Regarding this, the Panamanian people should understand clearly that we all reject the ominous past when there were numerous parties and they nurtured corruption.

When the PDC states that it is necessary to recognize the political parties in this country we are saying that it is necessary that the country realize that it needs legal political organizations to prevent the prevalence of corruption once again. But they should also be aimed at those so-called apolitical elements who do not want the political parties, those who once belonged to the country's corrupt political parties but today are beating their chests on radio and television as if Panama were not familiar with their political history. Those groups that do not want the political parties are the ones maintaining our country in its present state of administrative corruption and weakness.

A few days ago I was recalling that several of my contemporaries during my university student days used to criticize the privileges of those oligarchs who rode in official cars. Yet today we see those critics of the oligarchs who rode in official cars enjoying without so much as a blush the benefits of riding in official cars with a chauffer, and yet they attack the political parties.

Then let us state clearly within this national dialog that those elements are being supported by a party called the National Guard. As in the past they are forcing the National Guard to support their privileges and their corrupt actions in order to remain in power with its support while the country confronts a serious economic and political crisis and faces tremendous distrust.

BETHANCOURT ACCUSES POLITICIANS OF WORKING TOWARD COUP D'ETAT

PA251359Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Jan 78 pp 1, 11 PA

[Article by Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt has reiterated that several opposition politicians are working toward a coup d'etat. Although they may disguise these intentions under sophisticated robes that is under different names, basically it is the same thing.

In his office at the Chief of Government's Advisory and Information Commission, Dr Escobar Bethancourt replied to this correspondent's concern over statements by Alfredo Ramirez on television.

"In effect, as I maintained on the program 'Enfoques' and continue to maintain, the call for a constitutent assembly is equivalent to a coup d'etat because it is tantamount to setting aside the political constitution now in effect and installing a provisional government that would call elections for a constituent assembly. In the program on which Alfredo Ramirez and Dr Fabian Echevers appeared, Ramirez admitted that this was in effect a subverting of constitutional order, with the only difference being that he did not necessarily call it coup d'etat but called it several other names, but which are basically equivalent to violating the constitution."

Further on, Romulo emphasized: "We have been maintaining, and we again say it through CRITICA today, that the groups that were asking and continue to ask for a 'constituent assembly,' what they are actually asking for is that elections not be held for the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives as established by our magna charter."

VERAGUAS BROAD FRONT TO DEFEND REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS

PA301955Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Text] A Broad Front made up of popular sectors was formed in Santiago, Veraguas Province. Its main objective is to defend the revolutionary process against the attacks of traditional political groups, which are taking advantage or the political situation to come out in the open for the purpose of recovering political power. The Broad Front is mostly composed of labor and other organizations from popular sectors.

At yesterday's meeting, Naheli Herrera, secretary general or the Central of Panamanian Transport Workers [CPTT], explained the foundations and principles of the Broad Front. He outlined its most important tasks in view of the criticism by the pitifully notorious traditional political parties of the struggle being waged on behalf of the nation's just aspirations.

[Naheli Herrera--begin recording] Colleagues, this meeting is being held due to the urgent need to organize a broad and revolutionary national front with the participation of our fellow citizens, who believe that the revolutionary process led by Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera should be heightened, defended and translated into positive results by solving national problems according to our capability and means.

This Broad Front is necessary because of the pressure put on the revolutionary process in the international field, mainly by the United States because of the treaties' ratification, and domestically by a spurious coalition which has emerged on the scene demanding democratic freedoms. In fact, this coalition is trying to overthrow the revolutionary government by taking advantage of the historic moment of struggle for our country's just aspirations. Only we, the workers, who have been the most persecuted, are aware that we do have democratic freedom in this country and that anyone who has a complaint can speak up freely. However, the long standing enemies, who openly and underhandedly are showing their faces, are trying to revive the traditional political parties which maintained the country in a state of ostracism, obsolescence and on a 80 million [balboas] national budget for a nation of 1 million inhabitants. It is absolutely absurd and illogical in our time to solve our country's problems with that sort of mentality. The traditional parties do not have a philosophy or adquate programs for the times we are living in.

Thanks to the revolutionary government, the past 10 years have been put to good use by the generation governing the country. The seeds of discord and regression should not be sown in our country. In the past 10 years popular classes have been allowed to express their views as individuals and as groups by giving massive support to this process, a process which has paved roads for the peasants to take their products to the markets and to take their children to a clinic jointly operated by the social security fund and the health ministry. This process has built water plants in rural areas to provide the peasants with potable water. In this process the nation's economy is changing gradually from a consumer to a producer economy. We must contribute with our share of sacrifice to defend this process. [end recording]

Neheli Herrera also explained that the Broad Front's first task is to carry out the philosophy and goals of the recently formed Broad Front of popular organizations. A National Provincial Directorate was appointed during the meeting in which hundreds of labor, peasant and other organizations participated. This Directorate will be in charge of promoting the Broad Front's support of the revolutionary process.

FRENACOP CALLS FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS

PA302118Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The [revolutionary] process must turn to a consultation with the people to determine the type of organization that will best safeguard the democratic structures of government and, thereby, the structures of the popular power, states a communique issued by the National Front of Popular Coordination and Orientation [Frente Nacional de Coordinacion y Orientacion Popular--FRENACOP]. The FRENACOP document states that electoral legislation existing in our country needs to be adjusted. It therefore proposes that a new law be decreed which would eliminate some of the deficiencies in the legal system that exist in this area.

POLITICAL PARTY MEMBERS ATTEND SPECIAL MASS FOR EXILES

PA220355Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Jan 78 PA

[Text] At 1800 yesterday, a mass was held in El Carmen Church for the return of exiled citizens. Members and leaders of the Liberal, Panamenist and Christian Democratic parties and of the Movement of Independent Lawyers attended the mass.

Panamenist youth and members of the Committee for the Return of Exiles and Human Rights distributed pamphlets during the mass. In their pamphlets the Panamenists note that opportunist politicians were the first to occupy posts in the leadership of the revolution and that the Communist Party has occupied important posts such as the Labor Ministry.

The pamphlets signed by the Committee for the Return of Exiles calls for sympathizers to honk their car horns on 1 February at 1215 for 5 minutes.

RADIO COMMENTARY DENOUNCES OPPOSITION APPEAL, EXILES

PA302156Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Commentary by Osvaldo Gudino Aguilar: "The Farce of the Politicians"]

[Text] A few days before carnival, old-guard politicians, now assembled in a movement for the return of the exiles, have issued an appeal so that anybody who shares their views and interests will honk his car horn at noon on Wednesday in open repudiation of commander [title as heard] Torrijos' administration. The appeal might be viewed as a manifestation of the carnival season, during which men and women who hold grudges against the [revolutionary] process want to get them off their chests amid the festive spirit and noise. This tactic, however, will not confuse anybody, let alone the people's organizations which know that the interests of the oligarchy underlie the hackneyed claims for the return of the exiles. Why blow car horns in our country as the workers are leaving their jobs at factories or businesses? What do the champions of politicking seek at this crucial moment through this very special tactic? Logically, they seek to cause tension, nervousness and confusion in order to fertilize the soil of conspiracy.

It should, however, be noted that this type of protest is akin to the processes of programmed subversion, as was the case in Chile in 1973 and more recently in Jamaica where the CIA wanted to topple the nationalist Michael Manley administration. This case is rather enlightening, particularly if we bear in mind that in Kingston, the Jamaican capital, the counterrevolutionary forces a year ago issued an appeal to the people to turn on their car lights to protest against the Manley administration. This ploy was not very successful because the people refused to heed the appeal. An appeal to stage disturbances against the high cost of living was also unsuccessful because it was learned that a large part of the economic imbalance was due to international pressures on Jamaica.

In our country, the oligarchy that has been removed from political power has also learned to vary its tactics and to act in collusion with the specialized corps [cuerpos especializados] in an effort to foil the people's aspirations. Thus, one can understand why the old political parties have reappeared and why they have tried uselessly to divide the student movement, the vanguard of the anti-imperialist struggle. During the carnival celebrations, the unpatriotic groups, whether they go by the name of Independents, Panamenists or Liberals, are preparing another big farce and are setting a trap for our people as the deputies used to do every 4 years from their comfortable assembly seats. Those counterrevolutionaries who want us to return to the past should know that our people count on a mature and responsible group of young people who are not willing to sell themselves for $1 or for $100,000. The generation that is struggling to liberate the country from exploitation and misery will only honk their horns when it is time to fight and not as a pastime of those who have luxury cars.

POLITICAL EXILES RETURN FROM SWEDEN

PA301920Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Jan 78 p 1 PA

[Text] A group of Panamanians who had been in political exile in Sweden arrived at Tocumen Airport early Monday morning. It has been confirmed that this is the first such group to return to the country since national authorities published a list of persons who could return some time ago. This is the same group of Panamanians that had a broad conversation with Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos during the leader of the Panamanian revolution's last trip to the Middle East and Europe. It will be recalled that General Torrijos spoke directly with this group of Panamanians, who expressed various ideas concerning the Panamanian political situation and, in particular, their status in Sweden.

'POLITICAL CIRCLES' ORGANIZED TO INFORM WORKERS

PA271348Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Political circles [circulos politicos] --set up to inform and interest government employees in matters fundamental to the nation's development--have increased markedly in the General Directorate for Community Development [DIGEDECOM]. These political circles, far from being instruments of persuasion in this sector, are a mechanism of self-examination and self-criticism regarding important developments in the country. Political circles are being organized in an orderly manner in all the DIGEDECOM departments in order to keep department employees at the vanguard of national development.

SUPREME COURT DECIDES AGAINST PIEDRA PICADA FIRM

PA251721Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1220 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Supreme Court has denied an appeal filed by the Piedra Picada firm asking for constitutional guarantees. This has ended a 9-month strike but has also obliged the firm to close down as the owner says he cannot pay the accumulated wages, interest payments and other expenses. The firm had filed an appeal against an order by the Labor Office but the Supreme Court said the Labor Office's order was legal, although it declined to say if the strike, caused by the dismissal of three workers, was illegal or not.

This has been one of the longest strikes under the present labor code.

BRIEFS

INCREASED REVENUE--Dr Fernando Aramburu Porras, director general of revenue of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, has revealed that fiscal income for 1977 increased by 60 million balboas over 1976. Dr Aramburu said that this income was 7 million balboas more than the government has estimated for the period. [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 21 Jan 78 pp 24, 14 PA]

COSTA RICA

STATION APPEALS TO U.S. ON REMOVAL OF SOMOZA REGIME

PA272055Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Station commentary]

[Text] Latin America is in a serious crisis. The military and the ideologists have destroyed all peaceful existence and done away with respect and tolerance among men. Peace and equality in contemporary Latin American society have been wiped out by cannons and bayonets. While Argentina and Chile conceal their dictatorial style with an international ruckus over some islands, Uruguay--taking cover unsuccessfully behind the OAS--tried to hold a general assembly to show that there is freedom and democracy in that country. But other governments did not accept this attempt to mislead them.

There is destruction in our Latin America, but there is also a ray of light coming from the north. It would be hard to find another man like Jimmy Carter to penalize military dictatorships in these countries. Somoza is the best example of what a U.S. Government can do in this respect and what it never did in the cases of Duvalier, Batista or Perez Jimenez. In the past, the United States was always afraid of the military and the dictatorships. Then Carter arrived and adopted the firm stand of defending human rights. Now these rights are being defended and guaranteed and the struggle for respect for human rights is being waged in earnest.

It is comforting for the men who still love liberty and democracy and believe in human rights that there should be a government and politicians such as those in the United States at this time.

Now it is important for them to realize the need to shake Somoza loose. The United States should ask Somoza to leave; otherwise, we are a few days away from a state of pain and anxiety for Nicaragua, which nobody wants. The strike grows, the threats grow and the tension is almost unbearable. The United States should look carefully at this situation and not permit more bloodshed in Nicaragua.

BRIEFS

COFFEE SALES--San Jose, 17 Jan--The director of the coffee office has reported that Costa Rica has sold 30,000 tons of coffee of the 1977-78 harvest. He added that this is approximately 50 percent of the export coffee of the current harvest. [San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Colombia in Spanish 1220 GMT 17 Jan 78 PA] [SERCANO NETWORK]

GUATEMALA

EGP RELEASES FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER HERRERA IBARGUEN

PA301830Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1820 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 30 Jan (EFE)--The Poor People's Army [EGP] today released former Foreign Minister Roberto Herrera Ibarguen. The release, which occurred at 1700 GMT today, ended the 30 days of captivity for the Guatemalan politician.

BRIEFS

NEW MEXICAN AMBASSADOR--New Mexican Ambassador to Guatemala Rafael Macedo Figueroa presented his credentials to Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes on 20 January. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 23 Jan 78 p 15 PA]

NEW MALTESE AMBASSADOR--New Maltese Ambassador to Guatemala Francisco Balzaretty y Macias presented his credentials to Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes on 20 January. [Guatemala City CIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 23 Jan 78 p 23 PA]

FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH FRG--Guatemala and the FRG have signed a financial cooperation agreement which seeks to increase the friendly relations between the two countries in the area of development assistance. The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes and FRG Ambassador Gerhard Dohms. [Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 21 Jan 78 p 13 PA]

NICARAGUA

DEFENSE MINISTRY TO INVESTIGATE SHRIMP BOAT ATTACK

PA280238Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0150 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has ordered an investigation into the killing of the captain of a shrimp boat belonging to the Alinsa firm during an attack in the Gulf of Fonseca on Wednesday.

According to the Corinto Port Authority, the boat was boarded by four pirates, allegedly Salvadorans who were armed with guns and knives. They tied up the crew and took 800 pounds of shrimp from the boat's hold.

Before fleeing, they killed Captain Enrique Largaespada, who tried to stop them.

The Alinsa offices in Managua reported that pirate attacks frequently occur in that area and that they will provide their vessels with greater protection.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON GENERAL STRIKE OVER CHAMORRO DEATH

Somoza Remarks on Strike Reported

PA281503Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The strike in Nicaragua will enter its sixth day today. Some gas stations were forced to operate yesterday under military pressure. Several ladies were beaten during a demonstration in Leon.

Somoza's reply to requests from the opposition was an outright no. The opposition needs something the government does not have, Somoza said. The strike was not triggered by Chamorro's death. The opposition groups were waiting for an appropriate moment to try to destabilize the government, the Nicaraguan head of state added. If they start hurting the people with this strike, we will adopt the necessary measures to intervene in some of the activities which are essential to Nicaragua, he remarked.

The National Strike Committee holds that at least 80 percent of all activities are paralyzed in Nicaragua as a result of the strike. Meanwhile, General Somoza has said that the emergency law does not empower the government to confiscate enterprises but that it will do so if necessary. We will keep the gas stations open to supply fuel even if we have to use the police, he warned.

Somoza Speech at Military Club

PA281523Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1440 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 28 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--In view of the request for his resignation filed by the opposition parties, Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza said here last night: "I am not going to leave or be ousted." Stating that he used those words to imitate his father, Gen Anastasio Somoza Garcia, who was assassinated, the president addressed a meeting of official party deputies and senators at the military club.

The Liberal congressional majority bloc members noted that, even if President Somoza "resigned, they on behalf of the people would not accept his resignation." The president said: "We insist that the government is strong. We are not going to go to extremes or be trapped into using violence, as the opposition would like."

This is the first time that General Somoza has discussed the request for his resignation filed by all the opposition parties and several other organizations.

He also discussed the overall strike that has paralyzed this capital and at least eight other cities in the countryside. He told the Liberal deputies that the opposition had planned to stage it in December.

He said that the reason for staging the strike in December would have been the "opposition's unreasonable demands during the dialog." Somoza stated that after he agreed to hold a dialog with all national groups, as requested by the church and private business, with the condition that they be held after the municipal elections scheduled for 5 February, the opposition then wanted the dialog to be held before that date. The haste in holding the dialog, Somoza added, "made me realize that they were looking for a reason to give them the moral strength to topple the government."

President Somoza, whose family has ruled the country for almost half a century, also discussed the upcoming municipal elections with the deputies. He said that the elections will be held throughout the country as scheduled despite the Conservative party's request for a postponement. He explained that the election will not be held in Managua because the capital is a national district and not a municipality.

The president urged the Liberal leaders, together with the National Guard (army), "to insure that there are no attacks on or mob actions at the polling booths."

Somoza Speech in Corinto

PA281705Y [Editorial Report PA] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1616 GMT on 28 January 1978 begins a live national network broadcast of a speech by Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle at the inauguration ceremony of a new shipping port in Corinto.

Somoze begins his address by citing the importance of the new shipping port for the nation's economic development. He says that the new port is the best in Central America and in the Pacific Ocean area. Somoza talks about the port's financing and the efforts made by the Liberal Party and the construction workers to build the facility.

Somoza then turns to the domestic situation and says that the current lockout is not a spontaneous reaction to the death of LA PRENSA director Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, but is part of a plan prepared by the opposition forces to foment violence and instability in the nation. He remarks that the national dialog which the government agreed to carry out with the opposition forces was also part of the opposition plan to cause instability and use the dialog to pressure the government.

Somoza discusses the Nicaraguan system and affirms that justice exists in the nation and that the courts are capable of administering this justice. He denounces the slanted news reports on the investigation and trial of the accused in the Chamorro murder case.

Somoza then calls for vigilance on the part of all the nation's Liberals against the threat to the Nationalist Liberal Party from the Conservative Party, which by requesting the national strike, proved that it wanted to topple the rule of justice in the nation. He says that the Liberal Party guarantees democracy, social justice and the better distribution of the nation's wealth. Somoza then condemns the national lockout and strike called by the Conservative Party as a sign of Conservative capital's attitude against the working masses.

Somoza says that the National Guard will continue to guarantee domestic peace, justice and the rights of the workers. He appeals to the small businessmen to keep their stores and shops open and says that the government and the Nationalist Liberal Party have the support of the nation's working masses and poor. He concludes his address at 1653 GMT with an appeal to the people to vote for the Liberal Party candidates in the 5 February elections. Poor reception precluded further processing of the speech.

ACAN Report on Speech

PA282012Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1847 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Corinto, Nicaragua, 28 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--"We will hold general elections in 1981 and I shall turn over the presidency to the Liberal or any other Nicaraguan citizen who is elected," Gen Anastasio Somoza said here today during a Liberal rally.

In a firm voice, the president gave his reply to the Conservative Party, the only opposition party that is officially recognized by the government. The Conservative Party shares administrative tasks as a minority party and has joined the other opposition parties in requesting Somoza's resignation.

According to the president, the Conservative Party "has made a serious political blunder by jeopardizing national interests and its own legal status by attacking the constitutional precepts for its responsible participation in the country's administration."

"Let those gentlemen who are calling for my resignation not be mistaken. As we have made them a legal party, they could also lose their legal status if they do not cast ballots," Somoza warned. He was talking about the fact that, in view of the national crisis resulting from several days of an overall strike, the minority party asked the electoral authorities to postpone the municipal elections scheduled for 5 February.

Addressing the dedication ceremony of the expansion and modernization works of the port complex in this city along the Pacific coast, Somoza insisted that as chief of state he could not remain indifferent to attacks on the constitution through appeals for his resignation from the presidency.

The president added that "we Liberals have been men of conviction and of ideals, ready to put up a fight. And we have always met with success. We have always faced every challenge and won. That is why the Nationalist Liberal Party will celebrate its golden jubilee in power through the will of the people and through a direct popular vote."

Calling for his party's full support of the men who brought the party to power and asking its members to be wary of the "crouching Conservatives," Somoza stated that the Liberal Party would not betray its heroes and so "neither the party nor I am leaving power." Addressing Liberal senators and deputies last night, General Somoza remarked: "I am not going to leave power or be ousted."

The Nicaraguan president accused Conservative capitalists of financing the nationwide stoppage that has been increasing daily throughout the week with the support of the largest private business groups.

"These capitalists," he said, "have provoked a stoppage through their own influence or through direct or indirect coercion in an overt reactionary ploy against the wage earning class and small businessmen who have been forced under pressure or through threats to stage a lockout, thus bringing harm to many people who want to make a decent living."

Then Somoza noted that those businessmen are "trampling the right to work" and asked the people "to be wary of the elite group that is directly leading them not to a civic arena but a political arena in which the Liberal Party will respond."

The chief executive stated that the administration is using the experience gained from the earthquake, which destroyed the Nicaraguan capital in December 1972, and it is already taking the necessary measures to prevent a shortage of staples that the people need for their daily activities.

"We must have confidence in our own belief in peace and liberalism and confidence in our belief that the people rather than the wealthy businessmen--who, couched in their economic power, want to demand the president's resignation--will have the final say," Somoza concluded

Somoza: Monday 'Decisive' for Strike

PA280358Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0230 GMT 29 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 28 Jan (LATIN)--President Anastasio Somoza, confronting the greatest labor-business challenge of the last decades, today said that "he will resist until the end" but that he will not resign because "my resignation would cause a coup d'etat."

Somoza, who had earlier said "I am not leaving office nor will I be ousted," mentioned the possibility of suspending constitutional guarantees, but he dismissed the possibility of reinstating a state of siege to oppose the strike that has partially paralyzed the country during the past 5 days.

Shortly after Somoza inaugurated the port installations [in Corinto] as some 1,500 longshoremen and Liberal Party members watched, violence broke out in five Managua districts when the National Guard dissolved several attempted demonstrations. It was unofficially reported that at least 10 persons were arrested at the Ciudad Jardin Park close to the Eastern Market, which has remained open during the 5 days of the strike, selling food and groceries.

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA whose murdered director, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, was a tenacious Somoza rival, today revealed that the National Guard had attacked optometrist Polidecto Correa and an unidentified Costa Rican newsman. The newspaper, opposed to Somoza, said that the UDEL national director, Cesar Perez Arevalo, "was jailed during the Ciudad Jardin incidents." It also identified five persons arrested in La Fuente District in Managua's southeast sector, where the National Guard also dissolved attempted demonstrations.

Somoza today said in a press conference that "Monday will be decisive" regarding the strike's results since there are reports that several businessmen will reopen their stores under military protection.

Although Somoza reasserted that he will not reestablish the state of siege, lifted at the end of last year, the fact is that the National Emergency Committee, reorganized 4 days ago, has extraordinary powers based on an emergency law passed in April 1973, several months after a devastating earthquake destroyed Managua and killed some 10,000 persons.

The special powers include the power to request the cooperation of any citizen who can be fined from $140 to $1,400 if they refuse. This is the case of the "cooperation" requested today from the radio stations throughout the country when asking them to join the national network.

Hospital Doctors Join Strike

PA282210Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1710 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 28 Jan (AFP)--Hospital doctors in Managua and in other important cities in Nicaragua have just joined the antigovernment strike that today reached its sixth day. Today, the strikers held lightning demonstrations in various parts of Managua for the first time since the beginning of the movement for a thorough investigation of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's murder on 10 January.

The Liberal Independent Party today also joined the other opposition sectors in demanding Somoza's resignation.

A business census yesterday showed that 65 percent of businesses participated in the strike, about 25 operating at half capacity and only 10 percent working normally. Traffic in Managua has decreased although gasoline stations remain open by government order.

The Nicaraguan National Advertisers Association today agreed to suspend all radio, press and television commercials since they cannot promote goods not on sale because of the strike.

Leonel Arguello, general manager of the National Insurance Company, announced that Lloyds of London had since yesterday suspended reinsurance for Nicaraguan insurance companies as a result of the insecurity in the country and the recent arson of 11 January.

Military Patrols Prevent Demonstrations

PA282121Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2057 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 28 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Military patrols today prevented at least six street demonstrations in various parts of the city. The demonstrators were going to demand President Anastasio Somoza's resignation.

Reports indicate that military units had been deployed since early this morning close to the rallying points for the demonstration in the San Judas, Open 3, Monsenor Lazcano, Ciudad Jardin, Barrio Riguero and 14 September districts. Armed military patrols prevented the gathering of the people prior to holding the demonstration. In most cases the demonstrations were not held because of the military patrols.

At Ciudad Jardin, where the ACAN-EFE offices are located, the military patrols held a number of persons who insisted on demonstrating. The aborted demonstrations were organized by the Democratic Liberation Union, an opposition coalition formed by eight political parties and labor centrals.

Meanwhile, the Managua Radio Newsmen's Union met here today and agreed to play funeral marches during their newscasts to protest against the Radio Control Office, which ordered the radio stations to abstain from publishing news related to the sixth day of the national strike.

At the meeting, attended by leaders of the Latin American Newsmen's Federation, the newsmen agreed to create a "Freedom of the Press Coordinating Committee" made up of six members.

Clashes With Demonstrators, U.S. Newsmen

PA282352Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2329 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 28 Jan (LATIN)--National Guard units used tear gas today to disperse opposition groups in various parts of the city. It was also unofficially reported that 10 persons had been arrested.

The incidents took place after it was announced that the Democratic Liberation Union planned demonstrations in the Ciudad Jardin sector, where a market had remained open to the public during the 4 days of the labor-employer national strike.

Witnesses said that the incidents began when unidentified persons fired on the National Guard. The security forces charged, with their weapons in hand, firing tear gas grenades at some 150 persons in the park and prevented their attempts to assemble.

Several foreign newsmen, including Leonard Greenwood of the LOS ANGELES TIMES and Karol Hersh, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL television division cameraman, had serious altercations with National Guard officers when security forces tried to attack them as they filmed the incidents.

Bishops Ask for 'True' Solutions

PA292103Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1900 GMT 29 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 29 Jan (EFE)--Nicaraguan bishops today asked the government headed by Gen Anastasio Somoza "to search for true and definite solutions to the problems affecting us."

The prelates' message, which analyzed recent events in this Central American nation resulting from a general strike, whcih entered its seventh day today, was read this morning in the pulpits of all the churches of the city.

The bishops--Salazar y Espinoza, Vega, Obando Bravo, Lopez Fitoria, Barni, Schlaefer and Carranza--felt urged to "raise our voice as pastors" this weekend.

The church officials explained that they have done this "to encourage that every effort be made in the search for a solution that will conform to the values we profess as Christians."

"Again we say to our people, especially the suffering, that we are with them, that their sorrows and happiness are also ours, and that we encourage them to follow Christ, his message and example," the seven bishops said.

They emphasized that "we agree with those trying to solve the problems affecting the country through civilized means."

They also pointed out that Christians cannot disregard the solution of those social, political and economic conflicts which are harmful to justice and prevent peace.

"Neither can they be at peace with their consciences if they cooperate with sinful structures which not only block, but also bring harm to the communities' welfare," the members of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference added.

Pointing out that "we cannot remain indifferent to the fate of our fellow citizens," the bishops added that "because of this, we ask the national government to search for true and definite solutions to the problems affecting us, solutions that will respond to the demands of the majorities under the present circumstances."

The bishops' message is dated 28 January, but was read today during mass in all churches of this capital.

The text of the message started to circulate today among leaders of the private sector, who have started to arrive for a meeting at the offices of the Nicaraguan Development Institute (INDE).

Private Sector: Strike To Continue

PA3012O1Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2351 GMT 29 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 29 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--An assembly of Nicaragua's private sector decided this afternoon "to continue the national strike for as long as there is no justice and liberty in Nicaragua." The meeting of leaders of the private sector began early this morning and concluded late this afternoon.

The meeting took place in the Nicaraguan Development Institute (INDE). It was attended by businessmen, advertisers, cotton producers, coffee producers and others. It is noteworthy that wives and relatives of the men who participated in the meeting were also present.

While the private sector was discussing the wording of an official communique, people outside the INDE offices were singing the Nicaraguan national anthem and chanting slogans such as "the people, united, will not be defeated" and "the people, united, will not be crushed." This is the first time that these types of slogans have been heard in the INDE building.

The private sector's communique states: "The successful national strike that has reached proportions never seen before in our country has been possible thanks to the total support of the Nicaraguan people, in this manner, are stating their rejection and protest for the lack of justice and liberty."

The communique continues: "Aware of the importance of the current national situation, we reaffirm our determination to pursue the stoppage until there is justice and freedom in Nicaragua."

The private business representatives also refer to the National Radio and Television Directorate's ban on reporting of the stoppage.

They say: "The ban that the government has imposed on radio and television without decreeing a state of siege is an open violation of the constitution."

The businessmen stated that they strongly support the "courageous" attitude adopted by the Managua Radio Newscasters Union in defense of freedom of speech.

The newscasters union held a meeting yesterday and another one today and agreed to "disregard" the ban imposed by the radio bureau. They decided to report on the national situation tomorrow, Monday.

The private business men's communique finally says that "the force of repression will not break the will of the Nicaraguans."

This communique issued by private business comes at the end of the seventh day of the national stoppage. The strikers want the government to promptly solve the killing of opposition newsman and leader Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

Four Radio Newscasts Prohibited

PA301736Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1655 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 30 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Directorate of Radio and Television today prohibited the transmission of four of Managua's main radio newscasts on grounds that they were not abiding by the national emergency law in effect since last Friday. The newscasts are: Sucesos, from Radio Corporacion; Extra from Radio Continental; Aqui Nicaragua, from Radio Mi Preferida, and ABC. [as received]

Last Friday, the military authorities issued an official communique indicating that radio stations, according to the emergency law, should abstain from reporting on the nation's general strike, which today went into its eighth day.

The news that led to the closure of these newscasts referred to a note from Managua's Radio Newscasters Union, which had decided to struggle for the freedom of the press and to continue reporting on what is happening in the country. During the weekend, the radio newscasters consulted lawyers about the contents of the emergency law. The lawyers said that the enforcement of that special law, issued after the 1972 earthquake in Managua, is illegal and by all means unconstitutional. The government has rejected this argument and denies that it has violated any of the laws of the republic. The directors of the prohibited radio newscasts were summoned today to the office of Col Alberto Luna, radio and television director, to answer charges.

Radio Station Notes Restrictions

PA3017555Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The private sector has maintained its position of continuing the general strike decreed 7 days ago by political opposition sectors, labor unions and workers in demand of justice, as well as its request for President Somoza's resignation.

However, life in the capital is quite tranquil and calm. Since Radio Corporacion has been forbidden to report the present situation in the country regarding the strike, we are obliged to broadcast only rthis report for the countries of Central America and their SERCANO radio stations.

We repeat: The National Directorate of Radio and Television of Nicaragua has forbidden Radio Corporacion to broadcast news concerning the strike. Therefore, we must yield to HRN of Honduras. [Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network, which follows Radio Corporacion in its turn on the SERCANO network broadcast at 1720 GMT on 30 January]

Situation 'More Critical'

PA3019385Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua--Nicaragua today entered the 12th [as heard] consecutive day of the national strike, increasing the political crisis triggered by the murder of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, which now demands the resignation of President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

The situation in the country has become more critical because the strike, which has paralyzed over 70 percent of the commercial and industrial activities in the country, is now causing a serious shortage of some indispensable goods.

Since early this morning, the capital and other neighboring departments were invaded by hundreds of heavily armed national guardsmen. Nine [as heard] radio newscasts were ordered discontinued today by the authorities, although some were merely broadcasting religious messages and popular music due to the strike called by the radio newscasters protesting the censure imposed by the Somoza regime. Only the official newscasts in the government stations continued as normal, releasing news designed to discourage the strike.

Over 70 percent of the businesses, however, remain closed here in Managua and other important cities such as Leon, Chinandega and Jinotepe, causing a scarcity of many products. In Managua, it is already difficult to buy food--and only at higher prices, as speculators are engaged in their unscrupulous activities. There has been no beer or soda since Saturday, and milk is rigidly rationed in order to supply children's needs.

The Managua broadcasters organization discontinued all radio advertisements. Saturday's championship fight between Nicaraguan Alexix Arguello and Jesus Escalera was broadcast without advertisements, which resulted in heavy losses to the television stations.

Since 1000 this morning, the private sector has been meeting with labor and other organizations in this capital to analyze the situation.

Meanwhile, President Somoza remains firmly in power after declaring he will not leave office despite the strong pressure being exerted by the national strike.

There is fear that the nation may become totally paralyzed, as this morning gasoline station attendants decided to suspend the delivery of all fuel. The decision was adopted by the Shell Company. There is the possibility other companies will follow suit, which will create the most serious opposition to the government, which has threatened to open the gas stations by force.

Demonstration Dispersed, 60 Arrested

PA302016Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1930 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 30 Jan (AFP)--Nicaragua police today very vigorously dispersed a protest demonstration here against the government. The demonstration was underway in the area around the UN offices, and police arrested 60 university students who wanted to join the demonstration. The students were on their way to the site of the demonstration on a bus. However, they were taken in the same bus to police headquarters.

During the police action, the groups of demonstrators were dispersed by a large security service unit. Several persons were mistreated, including Domingo Rex, a CBS cameraman who was clubbed several times on various parts of the body.

The demonstrators were loudly calling for President Anastasio Somoza to resign. The event was sponsored by the Association of Women Concerned With National Problems (AMPRONAC).

It has been stated that the repressive operations, in which the National Guard is also participating, are being directed by Maj Anastsio Somoza Portocarrero, the president's son.

Businessmen of the Eastern Market of this city, which provides most of the city's staples, joined the strike today. Some of them were assaulted by army troops and forced to reopen their businesses. Two supermarkets, as well as some banks that opened this morning had to close again as the general strike gained more support and groups of citizens carried out demonstrations, which the army dispersed.

It is estimated that some 150 persons have been arrested so far. Stores in Leon, Masaya, Granada, Matagalpa, Chinandega, Jinotepec, Biriamba and in other cities as well remained closed this morning despite the army's unsuccessful efforts to force them to open. Meanwhile, there is a shortage of foodstuffs and lack of transportation throughout the country. Hospitals, private clinics and transportation facilities are operating only at 30 percent of their normal capacity. In the case of transportation, this is due to the fact that there are no passengers, a lack of spare parts and the closure of the repair shops. The students have put up barricades in front of the Ruben Dario Building at Managua National University in case of an eventual attempt on the part of the army to invade the university.

Teargas Grenades Dropped on Campus

PA310320Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0235 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 30 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Teargas grenades were dropped this afternoon on the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN). The students disclosed that the grenades were dropped from a helicopter that flew over the Ruben Dario auditorium, in the southern part of Managua.

The teargas grenades immediately affected the students who were on the campus. This is the first time that such an action has been taken against UNAN.

The students requested that the Nicaraguan Red Cross take care of the persons who were seriously affected by the teargas. Early this evening, an ACAN-EFE correspondent went to the campus and was also affected by the teargas.

President Meets With Reporters

PA3100016Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2255 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Text] Managua, 30 Jan (EFE)--"I will not let them win," President Anastasio Somoza said today when referring to the strike situation prevailing in the country. The strike is supported by the Nicaraguan private sector. The country today entered its eighth day of a total halt of various productive activities in demand of justice and a thorough explanation of the murder of newsman and opposition leader Pedro Joanquin Chamorro, which took place earlier this month.

The crisis affecting the country has worsened since the opposition political parties asked for President Somoza's resignation. In view of these petitions, General Somoza's government has taken several steps, which included banning radio newscasts from reporting on the situation prevailing in the country.

President Somoza today answered the questions of U.S. and South American reporters who are in the country covering the national events. Somoza, who defended his administration, said that the situation will normalize in Nicaragua "when those who wish to oust the government realize that it is better to walk down the lawful path."

Somoza said that the nationwide strike involves the Conservative capitalists of this country and therefore he chooses to call the movement "the strike of the millionaires." General Somoza pointed out that members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] are not taking an active part in this movement because "this is a strike of the Conservatives, and they are not going to allow the FSLN to join it."

The president answered some questions on the demonstrations that took place today in Managua, and which were dispersed by the military. A U.S. reporter (of the LOS ANGELES TIMES) told President Somoza that the National Guard had used brutality to break up a demonstration in front of the building housing the United Nations representative in Managua. This building is being occupied by the relatives of the peasants reported missing, and today's demonstration was to show support for those who have seized the building.

General Somoza reacted violently and emphatically protested the term "brutality" as used by the U.S. reporter. "You should know that in societies such as yours (the United States) teargas is used to break up demonstrations," Somoza told the U.S. reporter. He added that if, in fact, eight persons had been injured in the action, "I am sorry, but if they violate the law they must suffer the consequences."

Somoza also emphasized that the FSLN has lost its leaders and "has been dismembered." He added that the "Sandinist Front" which "has been dismembered" is the one founded by the late guerrilla Carlos Fonseca Amador--that is, the "Prolonged People's War" [Guerra Popular Prolongada--GPP] of the FSLN.

He added that "now the Conservative Party of Nicaragua (led by Dr Rene Sandino Arguello) and the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party (PSN) are trying to create opposition."

General Somoza was asked if he had given any thought to leaving politics in view of the numerous problems his administration is facing. He answered that "as long as I have a civic responsibility, politics will cause me no problems. Therefore, the question about leaving power now is irrelevant."

General Somoza was then asked about other issues concerning his family's wealth, their investments in other countries and the investigations into the assassination of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, which took place on 10 January.

On the assassination of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, General Somoza said that all those who took part in the murder "are alive and prison warrants have been issued for all of them," including Cuban-North American Pedro Ramos Quiroz. On the possibility of extraditing Ramos Quiroz, Somoza said that the outcome of the murder investigation will be sent to the United States. "The rest will have to be done by U.S. justice," he added.

On the subject of his wealth, Somoza said that most of it is invested in Nicaragua and that he was pleased to announce that he had cooperated in this manner with the Nicaraguan people. He also said that he has made some investments in other Central American countries. Somoza added that he has two estates in Costa Rica. One of them is composed of 14,000 hectares and belongs only to him, while the other one, 3,000 hectares, belongs to him and a group of Costa Rican citizens with whom he has formed a corporation. He denied having formed a corporation with President Daniel Oduber. "We are only partners in politics. He is a politician and so am I," General Somoza said. Whe he was asked about his health, he answered: "Medically speaking, I am in perfect health."

Paper Warns of Opposition Violence

PA2700l4Y Managua NOVEDADES in Spanish 21 Jan 78 p 10 PA

[Article by Federico Scheneegans Jr: "To Promote Violence Is to Create a Boomerang"]

[Text] Love and ambition can confuse reason and prevent logical thinking. One cannot even pursue imagination because everything is changed. This is a truth that can be fatal in politics, a fields in which everything must be seen in perspective.

The Democratic Liberation Union (UDEL), the small, pluralist group created by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, is made up of elitist types and malcontents. This is something no one can deny without appearing ridiculous. If the gentlemen from UDEL build a fire, they will be the first to be burned, because there are formulas which just "do not work" as the Portuguese say, and the Devil will work with anyone to lead him to perdition. History, which is a mother and teacher, is full of such examples.

In their lust for power and because of the distorted thinking created by resentment, which clouds the imagination and sober thinking, these gentlemen cannot see that they are promoting their own destruction. There are many and good kinds of moderate socialisms such as the one existing in Sweden, where there is political and socialist liberalism, moderate in its economic aspects. Israel is another example. But for the leftists--the atheistic Bolsheviks who have friends in the UDEL--this is just a period of waiting for an opportunity. And the first ones who will be destroyed are the fools in the group of aristocrats which make up the UDEL. These aristocrats are promoting a violent scheme which will boomerang on them.

Nicaragua needs peace, good will, honest men with love for their country. Liberalism has many such men. With these men we can withstand the physical and spritual attacks. But this can never happen if we destroy the doctrine of power that came about through free elections and gave us a respect for civil law promoted by Christ, equal opportunity and freedom of religion. All good Nicaraguans should support their government for the common good. UDEL says that Chamorro is a martyr. Very well, we are not going to dispute that, but it must know that martyrs shed their blood for peace and not for the excitation of passions. The blood of Christ and the saints never served to promote violence.

To those who try to encourage violence and disorder, we shall remind them of Saint Paul's very clear advice: "The empire for him is the order created by God for a well-organized society, and Christians as well as others owe it loyalty, financial help and reverence." What was said then about the empire can be said about today's governments. Saint Paul himself, who was a Roman citizen, during his extensive travels had the opportunity to study the benefits of a strong government. Let us follow his advice and not build a boomerang.

NATIONAL GUARD REFUSES HOSPITALITY TO HONDURAN PLANE

PA301812Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The bad weather prevailing in Tegucigalpa almost caused an air tragedy here early this morning. A Servicio Aeriio de Honduras, S.A., plane made an emergency landing at 0045 this morning. The plane was coming from New Orleans, having left there at 1700 yesterday, Sunday, for Tegucigalpa with some 60 passengers on board.

The plane had to land in San Pedro Sula at approximately 1900 yesterday to allow some of the passengers to transfer. When it left for Tegucigalpa, poor visibility prevented Captain Jacobo Medina from landing at Toncontin airport. He was forced to fly to Managua and arrived at Las Mercedes airport at approximately 2200.

At Managua airport, 34 passengers were surrounded by Nicaraguan National Guard soldiers, who told the crew and passengers that they should resume their flight to Tegucigalpa.

According to eyewitnesses who were interviewed this morning, thanks to the coolness and competence of Captain Medina, the airplane was able to avoid the consequences which by this time would have resulted in tragic news for the country.

At midnight, the plane was flying over Tegucigalpa, seeking a clearing in the weather that would allow the plane to land safely. After an anxious morning of flying, the plane was able to land at Toncontin airport this morning at approximately 0100. In the landing, two of the plane's tires were blown, but thanks to firemen there was no fire as is usually caused by friction in such cases.

At Toncontin airport, two of the passengers related their odyssey for the SERCANO Network, as we have informed you in the course of the morning.

RADIO NOTES CIA DIRECTOR'S INTERVIEW WITH U.S. MAGAZINE

PA3022204Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Text] CIA Director Stanfield Turner has said that this U.S. espionage agency will continue to carry out clandestine and paramilitary operations against other countries.

During an interview with the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, Turner said that CIA activities transcend the military field to also include economic and political problems. He affirmed that the espionage agency will reduce its foreign political interventions but will not stop them altogether. The director of the CIA, whom President James Carter entrusted several days ago with the task of reorganizing the espionage services, also obtained control of the budgets of these services. A recent study of the Center for U.S. National Security affirms that the scandals caused by the CIA and the Federal Bureau of Investigations have not been corrected. The document recalls that President Carter promised during his election campaign to end the illegal activities of the U.S. intelligence services.

CASTILLA WELCOMES SOVIET DELEGATION TO CEMA MEETING

FL3019l0Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Vladimir Kirillin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, heads the Soviet Union's delegation to the 18th meeting of the CEMA Committee [for Science and Technology], which opens in our country today. Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Belarmino Castilla welcomed the Soviet leader. The Cuban delegation that will participate in the CEMA committee meeting will be headed by Zoilo Marinello, president of the State Committee for Science and Technology.

Opens Meeting, Outlines Objectives

FL3019l5Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Belarmino Castilla Mas, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the PCC Central Committee, has made the opening speech at the 18th Meeting of the CEMA Committee for Science and Technology, which began this morning.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Vladimir Kirillin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, officially welcomed the 10 CEMA-member countries that will examine an important work agenda in a session that will last until Thursday, 3 February, at the Habana Libre Hotel.

In his remarks, Belarmino Castilla stressed that this is the first time that a meeting of this type has been held on the American continent and said he was convinced that its objectives would be attained. Castilla said that a plan for the accelerated development of science and technology in Cuba will be the main issue to be discussed at the meeting. He then outlined some of the aspects of the plan which will benefit our country: progressive use of technology in sugarcane agriculture; industrialization of sugarcane byproducts; agroindustrial development of citrus fruits; a plan for exploitation of solar and nuclear energy; and development of the electrical network are, among others, the subprograms [as heard] related to Cuba that will be discussed at the 18th CEMA Meeting for Science and Technology.

At the end of this speech, Belarmino Castilla emphasized that the round of talks will help reach agreements aimed at the expansion of scientific and technological cooperation for the benefit of our socialist development.

More on Castilla Speech

FL302223Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2121 GMT 30 Jan 78 FL

[Excerpts] Belarmino Castilla Mas, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the PCC Central Committee, this morning spoke at the opening session of the 18th CEMA Meeting for Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

The important meeting was officially opened by Valdimir Kirillin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers State Committee for Science and Technology. Kirillin referred to the good organization of the meeting and thanked the Cuban Government for the facilities offered for the meeting.

PCC Central Committee members Jose Felipe Carneado and Zoilo Marinello also chaired the opening session. Marinello heads the Cuban delegation to the meeting and is chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology.

These meetings are very important because they contribute to the common objective we have proposed for ourselves, Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Belarmino Castilla Mas declared in his speech at the CEMA Meeting, which opened this morning.

Castilla Mas said the plan for an accelerated development of science and technology in Cuba will be the main topic to be considered at the meeting. The plan contains the middle- and long-term fundamental objectives we propose to reach in this field. He emphasized the importance our country attaches to the plan for accelerating the nation's scientific and technological development.

In his speech this morning, Belarmino Castilla emphasized that Cuba and Mongolia will have preferential treatment as lesser developed countries. We therefore reiterate our gratitude for the understanding attitude demonstrated by the other CEMA-member countries--and attitude which reflects the internationalist nature of our relations, the Council of Ministers vice chairman noted. These relations serve as a shining example for underdeveloped countries in their struggle against the reactionary and imperialist interests in achieving superior economic, political and social levels, he said.

In sugarcane agriculture, a considerable increase in the levels of technology beyond those already achieved will be sought, and this will help us to gradually increase our sugar production. Of course, he emphasized, the increased sugar production we have planned requires great efforts, including the construction of new sugar mills and modernization of others. To this end, we will take advantage of the benefits of specialization and the international division of labor, the council of ministers vice chairman added.

In his speech, Belarmino Castilla referred to different subprograms that are of great importance for our country within the framework of the CEMA Meeting for Scientific and Technological Cooperation. As an example, he cited the solar energy subprogram, aimed at the creation of scientific-technological bases for the exploitation of such an important energy source, for which Cuba has optimum conditions.

On the subject of nuclear energy, Belarmino Castilla announced that a nuclear power plant will be built in our country with the assistance of the Soviet Union. This will benefit our economy to a great extent. An international institute devoted to the study of erosion and methods of protection and tropicalization under the specific characteristics of our country is also planned as part of the assistance CEMA will offer Cuba.

The policy of blockade on the part of North American imperialism has failed in all fields, including the fields of science and technology, Belarmino Castilla has declared.

We expect profitable results from this meeting; in addition, it should generate a productive exchange of experiences in our common work, Belarmino Castilla concluded in his speech to the delegates to the important meeting.

NICARAGUAN PRIEST: CUBA AT VANGUARD OF L.A. REVOLUTION

PA3014132 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Nicaraguan priest and poet Ernesto Cardenal said here a single revolution is underway in America and Cuba is at the vanguard. He added that Nicaragua is very close to victory. Cardenal is in Havana as a member of the Casa de las Americas 1978 jury. The priest, who is also a member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front [FSLN] of Nicaragua, said the situation in his country is quite surprising since the Somoza dictatorship has been considerably weakened. He added that the FSLN enjoys great popularity, even in the most conservative sectors.

PINEIRO RECEIVES PUERTO RICAN CP LEADER IRRIZARY

FL302138Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2012 GMT 30 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Franklin Irrizary, secretary general of the Puerto Rican Communist Party, who is on a stopover in our country, has met with Manuel Pineiro Losada, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the America Department. During their talks, they discussed matters concerned with relations between the two parties. Irrizary described as positive that which Puerto Rican workers have obtained so far in their demands from management. He referred to the events that have taken place in Puerto Rico in recent weeks as a result of a labor-management conflict between the electric company management and the Union of Electrical and Irrigation [as heard] Workers. Franklin Irrizary added that this conflict has been aggravated by the strike called by the Metropolitan Bus Authority workers.

REPORT ON CASTRO'S SCHOOL DEDICATION SPEECH

FL302032Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jan 78 FL

[Text] At the inauguration of the Friedrich Engels Vocational School in Pinar del Rio, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, delivered a speech in which he told the students: Everything we have seen here today generates trust, hope and optimism. And Fidel emphasized: We need you, students of this vocational school, to help us in our task, our effort, our struggle so that schools of this type will become what they should be. Our commander in chief referred to various aspects of educational work in the vocational schools and in the country's schools in general.

Fidel announced that a school for intermediate-level health technicians may possibly open during the next school year. He added that although considerable attention has been given to education, certain fields have been left behind, such as schools for male nurses and intermediate-level health technicians. He then said: And this has not been the only problem, for the vocation for these specialties--which are so essential for our country--was disappearing because we were reaching the point where everyone wanted to be a doctor and no one wanted to be an intermediate-level health technician or male nurse.

Castro pointed out that the revolution is creating opportunities for intermediate-level technicians to improve themselves and to pursue university studies, but the needs of society must be resolved and awareness of these needs created. As an example, Fidel mentioned that the need for professors and teachers, in which the battle was won and awareness created, has been solved. He stressed that presently more than 30,000 members of the Manuel Ascunce Domenech Teacher Training Detachment are studying to be teachers.

And he added: It is impossible for a humane, fair and united society such as the socialist society not to be able to produce the vocation for sufficient intermediate-level health technicians and male and female nurses--fundamental elements in the care of the sick, children, elderly, youths and everyone--and the awareness of this need. They must be, he said, persons of special sensibility since, of course, no one without a special sensibility can be a male or female nurse.

Elsewhere in his speech, the president of the Council of State asserted that in matters of vocational schools we have had success in the sense that everyone wants to attend vocational schools and that parents want their children to have an adequate background to enter vocational schools.

After explaining how the idea of vocational schools arose and the selection of students for these schools, Fidel went on to analyze how human beings are born with certain characteristics and aptitudes. But no one, he explained, can consider it a personal achievement to have been born with a higher talent or a better mind since the individual does not create such things but receives them when he comes into the world.

He then asserted: Man can make much of himself as a result of his own physical and spiritual effort, and whoever decides to cultivate a virtue can do so; whoever proposes to attain a higher moral standard can reach it; whoever proposes to acquire more knowledge can acquire it; whoever proposes to be a better student can be a better student; whoever proposes to achieve the highest levels of knowledge can reach them.

Further on Fidel emphasized: I do not believe that in the future world or in the future fatherland there will be room for the great luminaries, because the great luminaries, or so-called geniuses, fundamentally belong to a period of time in which the masses were ignorant and an insignificant minority of the population could study and develop. And he continued: But in the future world there will not be just 1 or 2, or 10 or 100 who could improve themselves, for the future world will be a society in which millions can improve themselves and millions can study. Then, there will be millions with developed and improved intelligences, whereas one who has studied much or knows much cannot appear as the town's wise man because all will be wise. There will not be one or two genuises; there will be an entire people of genuises. There will not be those alleged to be superendowed, because there will be a super-endowed people.

He said that we are seeing this reality grow around us and stressed the substance already attained in primary school programs. He emphasized that undoubtedly our country today has the most literate population in all of Latin America.

Referring specifically to the students of the vocational school, Fidel said: We do not want it ever to be said of a vocational school student that he is immodest; that he is conceited, presumptuous and vain, someone who feels superior to others simply because he was selected to attend a vocational school.

He said that the schools are much in need of the positive influence of the parents. He also called attention to negative parental influences. He said that sometimes children are pampered too much and any fault in them is tolerated. And just as there are parents who, if the son comes home with a towel or any other article belonging to someone else, force him to return it, severely scold him and force him to apologize, there are others who still do not have such consciousness and culture, which is why we sometimes have cases of theft in the schools.

Castro said it was niggardly for a student who has practically everything to commit the treason of stealing something from his comrades. It is unimagineable, he added, that the family allows a son to appear with any stolen articles.

Another way in which the family exercises a negative influence, Fidel explained, is to want one thing or another, as when someone makes a trip abroad or a comrade brings a gift; it is a negative influence for the family to immediately endow the son with the little thing that came from abroad. If he is given a gift, it should be left at home, Fidel said.

And he continued: If they were able to get him something, he should at least leave it at home and he should not be allowed to appear in school with the superspecial gift which others do not or cannot have. It seems to us, he said, that these are concepts and realities about which we must be very alert because these things tend to create a little vanity; tend to create a little superiority or false spirit of superiority; tend to deform character and are negative influences.

Our commander in chief went on to speak about problems of cheating in examinations. He emphasized that it is inconceivable that such a vice could be developed in our youth. He said that cheating or such habits, such deformation, such weakness must not be allowed; he called for the Union of Young Communists [USC] and student organizations to play an extremely important role in this by helping the intransigent fight against these problems.

He then stressed the importance of not neglecting aspects of formal education such as the correct use of uniforms, respect for comrades, professors and school leaders, good table manners and speaking correctly. Where there is no formal education, there is no discipline, he emphasized.

He discussed respect for professors and the indispensability of the authority of teachers, directors and deputy directors for the schools. He instructed the UJC and the Federation of Intermediate-Level Students to pay the greatest attention to these matters.

Elsewhere in his speech, he called for raising discipline in all the country's schools and for intensifying the use of the mechanisms required for it. He spoke of the necessary sanctions and measures which should be taken with a student who frequently commits violations, so as to avoid the day when that student would have to be expelled from school.

Further on he praised the beautiful architectural work of the Friedrich Engels Vocational School and reiterated his trust in its students. And shortly before concluding his speech, he emphasized: We are leaving here with the hope that you will become an example in every way, keeping very much in mind these matters I discussed earlier. But I do not want to leave you only with a hope; I want to leave with you promise. And he concluded, pointing out that we expect generations of true communists to come from these schools.

CASTRO, OTHERS HONOR JOSE MARTI ON BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

FL282225Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2203 GMT 28 Jan 78 FL

[Text] A floral wreath sent by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Council of State, has been laid at the mausoleum containing the remains of Jose Marti at Santa Efigenia Cemetery in Santiago de Cuba. Similar wreaths were laid in behalf of the Council of State and Council of Ministers and National People's Government Assembly.

The participants at the Third National Seminar on Jose Marti Studies of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Jose Marti Organization of Pioneers, labor centers and mass organizations of the Santiago Municipality sent wreaths to the national hero.

The flow of workers, students, Cuban Women's Federation members and people in general before the mausoleum has been continuous today to pay homage to Jose Marti on his 125th birthday.

WEEK OF TRIBUTE ENDS FOR FAR VANGUARD COMMANDERS

FL271828Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The week of tribute to the 1977 Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] vanguard commanders and officers has concluded with a farewell ceremony at the FAR main club. During the ceremony, Col Lazaro Felino Gonzalez conveyed to the vanguards congratulations from the FAR ministry for the high distinction they had achieved. He also wished them many successes in their future work. The FAR vanguards yesterday afternoon visited the Gen Maximo Gomez FAR Academy, where they were received by Academy Director Col Juan Pujol Sanchez, members of the staff and representatives of the professors. The FAR vanguard commanders and officers earlier had visited the Missile Antiaircraft Group for Defense of the Capital. They were received there by Capt Fernando Cabrera and other officers, sergeants and soldiers of the unit. At the missile group, which has been a FAR vanguard unit for 5 consecutive years, the visitors toured the various installations and observed practical demonstrations of the movement of a missile to the launching pad.

GARCIA CHAIRS RAILROAD WORKERS DAY MAIN EVENT

FL301855Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Jan 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Guillermo Garcia has presided over the main commemorative activity marking Railroad Workers' Day held in Camaguey. Afredo Suarez, secretary general of the Transportation Workers Trade Union, made the closing speech. Express railroad tracks in Las Tunas and Camaguey as well as other works of Cuban Railroads' Center-East division were inaugurated in tribute to the date. Forty-five railroad workers received the appropriate medals for having completed 50 years of service. Alfredo Suarez emphasized in his speech that the work done in 1977, although not exempt of deficiencies and difficulties which will have to be overcome, undoubtedly was full of outstanding advances. The railroads' plan was exceeded by 6.5 percent, he added. Cargo transportation grew 20 percent while passenger transportation grew 21 percent.

JAMAICA

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

FL302136Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2132 GMT 30 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has arrived in Kingston, capital of Jamaica, at the head of a delegation from our country for an official 4-day visit. The Cuban foreign minister was accompanied by his wife, Haydee Diaz; Ulises Estrada, second chief of the PCC America Department; and Carlos Amat, director for Latin America and Caribbean in the Cuban Foreign Ministry. The delegation was received at the Jamaican Norman Manley Air Terminal by Deputy Foreign Minister [name indistinct] and Cuban Ambassador Ramon Pez-Ferro. During his stay in Jamaica, Foreign Minister Malmierca will meet with Jamaican Foreign Minister Percival Patterson and Prime Minister Michael Manley.

MANLEY HOLDS TALKS WITH NIGERIAN CHIEF OF STAFF

FL301800Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Jan 78 p 12 FL

[Text] The situation in southern Africa and the problems faced by non-oil producing countries of the Third World were discussed by Prime Minister Michael Manley and the chief of staff of Supreme Headquarters of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Brigadier Shehu Yar' Adua, who called on him at Jamaica House yesterday morning. According to a release from the prime minister's office, the discussions lasted for about one hour, during which Mr. Manley and Brig. Yar' Adua examined the southern Africa situation and the plight of Third World countries which had no oil. Brig. Yar' Adua was accompanied by the commissioner for petroleum resources, Col. M. Buhari; the agricultural consultant, Alhaji T. Dagazau and the principal secretary in the cabinet office, Mr. B.G. Ingibe. Brig. Yar' Adua and members of his party who came in on Tuesday night leave the island on Sunday.

SECURITY FORCES KILL FOUR GUNMEN IN HANOVER, ST. JAMES

FL302250Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jan 78 p 1 FL

[Excerpts] Four gunmen believed to be from the same gang were killed in shoot-outs with the security forces in Hanover and St. James late Wednesday night. Two firearms and several rounds of ammunition were seized in the Security Forces operations. Police Information Centre (PIC) identified the men shot dead as Cebert Williams, 20, of Rosemount, St. James, and Philbert Allen, 22, of Kempshot, St. James. The other two killed were unidentified up to yesterday. According to reports from the PIC and the GLEANER'S Western Bureau, the Security Forces received a report that a Datsun motor car stolen in Montego Bay on Wednesday afternoon was spotted at Flint River on the main road from Montego Bay to Lucea, Hanover about 10 o'clock that night. A security forces cordon was thrown around Flint River District and the stolen car with three men aboard crashed through a police roadblock firing several shots. In a chase and exchange of gunfire the unidentified two were killed and the third, believed to be wounded, abandoned the car and fled into nearby bushes. The man wounded is believed to be Dennis "Prince" Dawkins, who is wanted by the police for questioning in connection with several cases of murder, shooting with intent and robbery. On the trial of the man believed to be Dawkins, described by the St. James police as "most wanted" the Security Forces an hour later went to a hut in the Anchovy Hills of St. James about six miles away. On their approach they were fired at and in a shootout Allen and Williams were killed. Other accomplices in the hut reportedly escaped in the bushes.

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